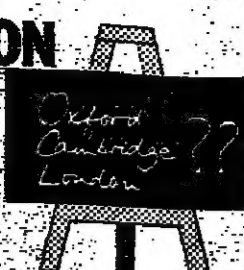


## EDUCATION

Why the universities need a premier league  
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## A new hope

Help to rebuild young lives shattered by cancer,  
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## THE TIMES Christmas Appeal



in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital



## Sweet reason

Sugar refines its image  
Dr Stuttford  
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## Rooms with a viewpoint

Olga Polizzi, creator of the Forte style,  
Valerie Grove

Hero's welcome as Northern Ireland is implored to stand firm against terror

# Clinton hails the making of a miracle

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND NICHOLAS WATT

PRESIDENT CLINTON was given a hero's welcome yesterday as he travelled triumphantly round Northern Ireland preaching reconciliation and injecting vital momentum into the peace process.

During a visit unthinkable two years ago, Mr Clinton was mobbed in the Protestant stronghold of Belfast's Shankill Road and the Catholic Falls Road. He plunged into wildly enthusiastic crowds in

and bringing Ulster its first peace in a generation.

He said those who renounced violence were entitled to be full participants in the democratic process and he finally rewarded Mr Adams the recognition of a public handshake.

Last night the White House was planning to bring Mr Clinton and the Rev Ian Paisley together at a Queen's University reception after the

Mr Clinton was greeted with a thunderous ovation by the non-sectarian workforce, and by a Protestant boy and a Catholic girl who held hands to introduce him. The President, clearly moved, said the ceasefire announced 15 months ago marked a turning point and "now is the time to sustain that momentum and lock in the gains of peace".

The vast majority of Protestants and Catholics wanted to make permanent peace, but there were still a few who would "never escape the dead-end street of violence". The people of Northern Ireland "must not allow the ship of peace to sink on the rocks of old habits and hard grudges," and he pledged that as long they pursued peace, "the United States of America will proudly stand with you".

Later, as he and his wife Hillary lit the Belfast Christmas tree, the President told thousands of cheering onlookers that it had been one of the most remarkable days of their lives. "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making us so welcome."

Children and adults climbed onto bus shelters and post boxes to catch a sight of the American leader as he joked about the competition he had faced to turn on the lights. He had fought elections all his life, but had never before confronted challengers with the name recognition, media support and martial arts ability of the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers.

Mrs Clinton read letters from two Irish children expressing their happiness at the end of violence and announced that they would be flown to America to attend a

Continued on page 2, col 5



The Belfast handshake that the world almost missed  
Praise for Clinton  
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Invoking the full weight of his office, Mr Clinton appealed to both Sinn Féin and the Ulster Unionists to embrace the "win-win" plan for reviving the peace process and to be willing to make concessions. "Engaging in honest dialogue is not a sign of surrender, it is an act of strength and common sense."

He also urged the IRA to end punishment beatings, but leavened his demands with praise of both Mr Adams and the militant Unionist leaders Gary McMichael and David Ervine for silencing the guns

lighting of the Belfast City Hall Christmas tree. What remained unclear was whether the Democratic Unionist leader would cap a day of marvels by attending the reception at the same time as Mr Adams. The two have never been in the same room.

The day's tone was set early on at the Mackies metal factory in West Belfast where



Catherine Hamill with President Clinton, who said that the children made his speech seem almost superfluous

## Poignant message from children

By NICHOLAS WATT

A LITTLE girl provided the most poignant moment of President Clinton's visit to West Belfast yesterday when she stood up and told him: "My first daddy died in the Troubles. It was the saddest day of my life."

Catherine Hamill, a nine-year-old Roman Catholic, had gone up to the podium hand-in-hand with Protestant David Serritt to read letters they had written to welcome Mr Clinton to Mackies factory.

Catherine had been a baby sitting on her mother's knee when the Ulster Freedom Fighters burst into their home and shot her father, Patrick, in 1987, and yesterday she said: "I still think of him." But she also spoke of her hopes for the future, saying: "Now it is nice and peaceful. I like having peace and quiet for a change instead of people shooting and

killing. My Christmas wish is that peace and love will last in Ireland forever."

David, 11, also read his letter, which said: "I live in a mixed area with both Catholics and Protestants. We play



Catherine with her father, killed 8 years ago

football and races together. I want to thank you for coming to Northern Ireland to help the peace process. I think the peace is great because there is no shooting or bombing. It means I can play in the park without worrying about getting shot."

The two children then held their hands aloft to welcome Mr Clinton to West Belfast. The President hugged them and told his 500-strong audience: "I really think that all that needs to be said has already been said."

Catherine said afterwards that Mr Clinton had told her he was proud of her and he had added a note to her letter saying: "Catherine, this is a lovely statement. Thank you for joining me, Bill Clinton."

David, who is awaiting the results of his 11-plus, and Catherine were chosen to read their letters after pupils at their schools were asked to

write a welcome, and the President said later that they were the most moving part of his visit to Northern Ireland. "They represented all those children... who have written to me about what peace means to them. Those two children joined hands to introduce me. I felt almost as if my speech was superfluous."

## ITV wins Cup Final battle

ITV has secured exclusive rights to screen the FA Cup Final from 1998 in a deal which will end 60 years of BBC coverage of the event. In a £130-million, four-year agreement, ITV and Sky Television will provide live coverage from the third round of the competition onwards, with the BBC restricted to screening recorded highlights on Saturday evenings. Page 48

## Council tax and stamp increases

By A STAFF REPORTER

COUNCIL tax payers face increases of up to 15 per cent in bills next year and the price of stamps is to rise by a penny in the spring.

The expected increases in council tax emerged after the Government relaxed rules curbing town hall budgets. The move, announced by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, was designed to ensure that the higher government grants allocated in the Budget for education get spent on schools.

Post Office chiefs blame the Government for the rise in stamp prices. Ministers have increased the sum they claim from the Post Office. Labour accused the Government of introducing a new "stamp duty" to pay for Tuesday's tax cuts.

Tax to soar, page 10

## SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Win The Times top 100 wines. Plus: 36-pages of perfect presents, in the MAGAZINE

Nigella Lawson's top books for cooks, in WEEKEND

Seven-day TV and radio guide, in VISION

## Yachtswoman abandons solo bid for record

By EDWARD GORMAN AND BARRY PICKTHALL

SAMANTHA BREWSTER, the solo yachtswoman attempting to set a new record for sailing around the world against the prevailing winds and currents, was forced to abandon her voyage yesterday after just a month at sea.

The decision came after accidents linked to the mast of her 67 ft cutter *Heath Insured*. The failure of the new hi-tech mast could have serious ramifications for the Global Challenge round-the-world race next September.

Miss Brewster, who is heading for the Brazilian port of Santos, spoke last night of her despair at having to abort the voyage. In an interview with The Times by satellite link from her boat, she said: "It is so frustrating, but I have been having problems with the mast for more than a week now. I would never feel secure

going on down into the Southern Ocean as it is."

Her problems began when fittings securing the mainsail to the mast started to come away, preventing her from setting the sail and reducing her speed. Two days ago a



Brewster: felt as if a bomb had dropped

50 lb winch attached to the bottom of the mast suddenly ripped out and catapulted to the top.

In a message to her shore-based team in Southampton, Miss Brewster recalled the perilous moment when the winch almost hit her as it plunged down. "I found the starboard winch had been ripped right off the spar," she said. "Seconds later there was a great splash in the water, just as if a bomb had dropped by the boat. It was the winch coming back down again and it missed me on the deck by little more than a foot."

The premature end of the voyage is a cruel blow to Miss Brewster, who was on course to beat the record time of 161 days set for a westabout circumnavigation by Mike Golding on board *Group 4* in a voyage completed last year.

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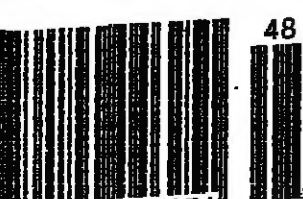
Nichols, Watches Of Switzerland,

selected branches of Leslie Davis,

Goldsmiths, Ernest Jones,

Mappin & Webb and Walker & Hall.

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## Operator of Royal Train to be sold

By Jonathan Prynn  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE British Rail company that operates the Royal Train is about to be sold to an American freight group.

The 15 coaches of the Royal Train are operated by Rail Express Systems (RES), which also runs the fleet of Post Office distribution and sorting trains. It is due to be sold next month. Wisconsin Central Railway, which operates freight trains in North and South America, has been chosen by BR as the preferred bidder for RES after the management-buyout team failed to offer enough.

Ownership of the train will remain with Railtrack, which is not due to be sold until next Spring.

Wisconsin is widely respected in the rail industry and has also tabled bids for British Rail's three heavy freight subsidiaries. It also operates some passenger trains in New Zealand.

The Royal Train, with its distinctive purple and grey livery, costs about £2.8 million a year to run but is used by members of the Royal Family for about only 100 days a year.

The sale will not affect the Royal Family's use of the train, which is paid for by the Government. RES supplies the drivers and attendants on the train.

Tom Power, a vice-president of the Chicago-based Wisconsin Central Railway, said the contract to run the train would not present any problems as one of its subsidiaries in Canada once carried George Bush on a tour when he was US President.

The Government's rail privatisation programme suffered another blow yesterday when it emerged that one of its "preferred" bidders for passenger franchises is having difficulties raising finance from the City.

Resurgence Railways, a consortium of business executives including a Tory party official from John Major's Huntingdon constituency and the former director of a failed double glazing company, had been chosen to take over the Great Western Intercity franchise.

It failed to meet its two-week deadline to secure financial backing.

## Weasels have a feast as leaders duck for cover

Prime Minister's Questions is usually absurd but mostly harmless. The pantomime can often be viewed with amused cynicism. It can even be fun. But there are times when even cynics feel indignant and yesterday was one of them. What sort of imbeciles do John Major and Tony Blair think we are? How weaselly does a weasel have to get before our leaders think we might recognise it?

Mr Blair had asked Mr Major to correct a statement by the Tory chairman, Brian Mawhinney, who (alleged Blair) had said that "as a result of the Budget, the average family will be £9 a week better off".

This was a weasel, as Dr Mawhinney had not said that. What Dr Mawhinney had said was: "Budget changes, together with rising incomes, will leave a family on average earnings £9 a week better off... This is the £9 per week Budget." Notice how he slips in that subordinate clause "together with rising incomes", then weasels sideways into his "£9 per week Budget" soundbite.

We can therefore dub Mawhinney's statement as Weasel 1: true only in the letter. Blair's paraphrasing of it was Weasel 2: nearly but not quite fair.

Major ducked. The Prime Minister could have knocked both weasels on the head if he had been prepared to quote his own party chairman in full. But he could not show up the Labour weasel without exhibiting the Tory weasel. So he took the escape route: he produced a third weasel. This consisted in attacking what he alleged were Mr Blair's own misleading statements in his reply speech after the Budget. This Weasel 3 had nothing to do with Blair's question. Major now challenged Blair to answer him.

Blair rose. He sidled round Major's question and produced Weasel 4 from the sack. He reminded MPs that £7 of the £9 increase in family

income came from rising income: why had Mawhinney not admitted this? In fact, Mawhinney had half-acknowledged it, but in a weaselly way. Blair's weasel and Mawhinney's weasel deserved each other.

Major rose. This was his chance to knock four weasels on the head. Instead he produced Weasel 5. Blair's promise that Labour would not raise taxes, he said, contradicted John Prescott's pledge to increase top-rate tax. This had absolutely nothing to do with the discussion, but the PM now challenged his opponent to explain.

Blair ducked. "I'll tell him what people will recall," he said, then produced two soundbites of such hog-whimpering banality that they do not even deserve the name of weasel. They were gerbil soundbites.

Major rose, tipped open the sack and released more weasels: interest rates down, incomes up, tax reduced, etc. — none of these bearing any relation to Blair's remarks. Weasels were by now running across both dispatch boxes and swarming all over the table. Both Blair and Major resumed their seats, each with a smug "so there!" expression, each apparently believing he had won.

Each, of course, looked perfectly idiotic. Who do they think they are kidding?

Is the John Major who even now pursues brave, delicate negotiations over Northern Ireland with such sure-footed sensitivity by any chance related to the badger-like deadweight throwing down thudding insults to the nation's intelligence at PM's Questions?

Is the Tony Blair whose language on a hundred podiums is of honesty, integrity and "values" by any chance related to the wheedling lingo of the dispatch box, insinuating, in the thin tenor of a stage villain, half-truth and evasion?

I think we should be told.

## Spirit of reconciliation welcomed by both sides



Arms reaching out yesterday to welcome the President in Guildhall Square, Londonderry, where thousands gathered to greet him

## Unionists and nationalists join in praise of President's visit

By Nicholas Watt  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S visit to Northern Ireland, which led to a genuine outpouring of affection from both communities, far exceeded the expectations of British ministers and the White House.

Unionists and nationalists joined together in praising the President for adopting a sensitive and even-handed approach to the Province's political difficulties during his trips to Belfast and London-

derry. Politicians also said that Mr Clinton's presence in areas of the cities that are still scarred by 25 years of violence would be a tremendous boost in attracting inward investment.

The spirit of reconciliation was highlighted from the start of Mr Clinton's trip when he was welcomed to Mackie's Metal Works on the "peace line" in West Belfast by Joe Hendron, the local SDLP MP, and Cecil Walker, the Ulster Unionist MP for North Belfast. The two men have travelled the world extensively to promote their constituencies, which are blighted by high unemployment.

Dr Hendron gave a warm welcome to Mr Clinton's speech. He said: "His speech was outstanding. I was very pleased to hear him condemn the punishment beatings. It is a great day for Belfast and a good day for Northern Ireland

generally." He added: "When you talk to the President he is totally genuine. His eyes do not rush about, he really listens. People say this was electioneering but that does not take away from a great day."

Mr Walker also welcomed the President's speech, although he described it only as acceptable. "I am very pleased for North and West Belfast that he has come here. I hope that there will be spin-offs with more jobs from his visit," he said.

Peter Robinson, the deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists and MP for East Belfast, who has been a persistent critic of the President, highlighted the economic benefits of his visit. Mr Robinson, who met Mr Clinton during his visit to the East Belfast Enterprise Park, said: "His visit has provided East Belfast with a window to the world. The job

we had to do today was to sell East Belfast and let people know that here is a place that you can invest in."

In his speech at the Mackie's factory, which is within yards of the scene of many so-called punishment beatings, President Clinton highlighted the continuing threat of violence in Northern Ireland despite the IRA and Loyalist ceasefires.

"Violence has lessened, but it has not disappeared," he said. The President emphasised a recent statement by the leaders of the four main churches in Ireland which condemned the attacks as "barbaric and immoral".

The IRA and loyalist terrorists have continued to assert control over their respective areas throughout Northern Ireland by carrying out some of the most horrific punishment attacks in the last year. The terrorists, who cannot use

firearms under the terms of their respective ceasefires, attack their victims with baseball bats and iron bars. In one case a boy's legs were forced through an iron railing by IRA terrorists in the republican Ardoyne area of north Belfast. Such attacks can be worse than wounds from knee-capping shootings.

In the most recent case five masked IRA terrorists beat a man about the head with hammers before abducting him from his girlfriend's home in Strabane, Co Tyrone. John Hegarty, 19, was found the next day by an RUC patrol with severe bruises all over his body and deep cuts to his face.

The terrorists say that they attack "anti-social elements", claiming that their victims have committed offences such as joyriding.

Joe Joseph, page 19  
Diary, page 20

## Bruton announces move on invitations to talks

INVITATIONS to talks under the terms of the new Northern Ireland peace process (twintack) approach are to be relayed to Ulster's political parties today, John Bruton said last night.

Speaking in Dublin ahead of President Clinton's arrival there this morning, the Irish Prime Minister also said he believed the American leader's visit was having "a huge influence" in encouraging politicians to follow the line adopted by the British and Irish governments this week.

The discussions are being staged side-by-side with the work of the international body on the thorny issue of decommissioning arms. Its full membership under the chairmanship of George Mitchell, the American Senator, was confirmed last night by the

British and Irish governments. General John de Chastelain, 58, Canadian Defence Chief of Staff since 1989, who has also been Canadian Ambassador in Washington, and Harri Holkeri, also 58, Prime Minister of Finland between 1987 and 1991 and a member of the board of the Bank of Finland, have both agreed to serve on the three-man commission.

The aim is for both the preparatory talks and the three-man body's task to be completed in time for all-party negotiations on the future of Northern Ireland to get under way by the end of February.

Mr Bruton said he believed Mr Clinton's day of engagements on the northern side of the Irish border — the first visit there of its kind by an American President — "would

do wonders for the morale of the people". He added: "It will show the peace they have been able to build is recognised by the most powerful politician in the world."

"I think that will give them and their political leaders the confidence that they need to make the compromises, to give the ground that is essential if the potential of the twintack process is to be realised."

"The timing could not be better. It was very important that we got the structure together so that the President could give us the boost that was necessary."

The Irish Prime Minister added: "I expect the invitations to the parties will be extended in the next 24 hours. No time frame has been set for the meetings. There will be a measure of flexibility."

## Bomb-blast hotel's finest hour

By Martin Fletcher

BELFAST'S Europa Hotel celebrated its finest hour yesterday. Two years after a 1,000lb IRA bomb rocked the hotel for the thirtieth time in 23 years, the Clintons spent the night there.

The rest of the 12-storey hotel was packed with American cabinet secretaries, senators, congressmen, White House aides and the mayors of various American cities.

The hotel was built in 1970, and became a prime terrorist target because the media stayed there and attacking it guaranteed publicity. It struggled on under several owners, sometimes closing temporarily for rebuilding, sometimes open only partially, but never succumbing. No guest was ever killed.

## President hails the making of a miracle

Continued from page 1  
summer camp next year, then Mr Clinton inaugurated a President's Prize to be awarded annually to grassroots workers for peace to study in America.

Mr Clinton made a point of meeting all the Province's political leaders during a hectic day of speeches and glad-handing and won praise for his efforts. "This will reverberate for months," Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin's vice-president, said.

John Hume, the Social Democratic and Labour Party leader, told the vast crowd waiting to see the President in the Guildhall Square, Londonderry: "We, on our streets, who knew for the past 25 years what the absence of peace has meant, are deeply grateful to the President of the United States for putting our prob-

lems at the top of his agenda and for the enormous effort that he has put into bringing peace into our country."

The success of Mr Clinton's trip was underlined when he was welcomed by Peter Robinson, the deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, who has previously condemned the President for being strongly pro-nationalist.

Mr Robinson, who met Mr Clinton during his visit to the East Belfast Enterprise Park, said: "Something good has come from this trip in that it required the Administration to look at Northern Ireland and to look at it more objectively than they had beforehand."

His comments were echoed by Gary McMichael, the Ulster Democratic Party leader, who said: "The president's visit will help to improve the atmosphere."

## Loneliness is just one problem

And it is a fairly common problem for seafarers away from home for months at a time. But it is only one of the troubles that people bring to us. As a Christian society working among seafarers we are asked for all kinds of help—spiritual, emotional, social and practical. And we are there, ready to give all the help we can, in all parts of the world. To give this help we depend entirely upon voluntary contributions. Please help us to continue the Anglican Church's ministry to seafarers by a legacy, or please send whatever you can to

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Just think, I could be lying  
in Robin Hood's bed...



Charles II hid up an oak; Isaac Newton found inspiration beneath an apple tree. Some yews have been shading English churchyards since St Augustine's time, and others are older still. But then every old tree has its history, which is why we're protecting landmark trees with our Esso Living Tree Campaign. So one day our great great grandchildren shall have them to climb in, and be grateful.

هنا من الأصل



# President stops off at the baker's for a bag of buns and walks out with Gerry Adams

## Fruitful visit is hailed on streets of peace

FROM ALAN HAMILTON  
IN BELFAST

BILL CLINTON popped into McElean's bakery in the Falls Road yesterday for a bag of Irish potato cakes and who should be having a coffee in the back shop but Gerry Adams.

It is, to say the least, unlikely that as the motorcade snaked its way through the Roman Catholic heartland of West Belfast, the President of the United States turned to the First Lady and said: "Hey Hillary, I'm kinda peckish: you wait there and I'll go get us an ethnic snack." Spontaneity is not the overriding feature of presidential progress.

Yet, despite the presence of a huge media circus including the fearsome White House press corps, only a couple of amateur photographers were on hand to record the moment when the Sinn Féin leader put down his coffee and emerged on to the pavement to shake the hand of his visitor and welcome him to West Belfast.

Presidential security men talked frantically to their sleeves as the substantial crowd on the pavement broke ranks and pressed around the two men as they walked together into the shop. Mr Clinton smiling broadly and, clearly at ease, shook hands with all the shop assistants. Pauline Leonard, the manager, who swore she had had only 20 minutes' warning, hastily put a selection of potato cakes, pancakes and pastries into a paper bag and presented them to the President.

Mr Adams had obviously been better informed. "I was expecting to meet him; I thought it was important that he touch base in West Belfast," he said afterwards.

Next door the staff of the Dunville pharmacy were banging furiously on the inside of their window to attract the President's attention. They opened the door to him, but the President apologised that



The photograph taken by a bystander of the President and Mr Adams shaking hands in a street encounter outside McElean's bakery in Belfast yesterday

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
IN BELFAST

## Picture that was almost missed

PRESIDENT CLINTON finally shook the hand of Gerry Adams in public yesterday, but the world's media very nearly missed the remarkable picture of America's leader embracing a former terrorist. It was left to an amateur photographer to capture the historic moment.

Mr Clinton has met Mr Adams twice before in Washington, but on

both occasions behind closed doors. This time the White House, wanting to encourage the Sinn Féin leader in his pursuit of peace, decided to abandon its earlier cynicism and laid plans for a "semi-spontaneous" street encounter between the two men.

The idea was for Mr Clinton to drive down the Falls Road after

visiting a factory on Belfast's "peace line", and to stop his motorcade outside McElean's bakery, near Sinn Féin's headquarters, where he knew Mr Adams would be waiting.

The motorcade stopped. Mr Clinton got out. But as he and his bodyguards walked towards Mr Adams the two men were instantly

engulfed by a huge crowd of excited people, who utterly obscured the long-awaited handshake from the squads of photographers and television crews who follow the President's every move.

A few people waiting had cameras and snapped wildly in the direction of Mr Clinton. One passer-by man-

aged to capture the moment and within no time the picture was being flashed around the world.

Mr Adams said he greeted the President with a Gaelic phrase meaning "a thousand welcomes". The President then stepped into the bakery to say hello. Earlier he and his wife Hillary had gone into Violet's grocery shop in the Protestant Shankill Road and, in another display of well orchestrated "spontaneity", bought oranges.

he did not have time to come in. Nevertheless he shook everyone's hand and a young woman threw her arms around him and kissed him. The sleeve-talk by the secret service agents in their regulation pale mackintoshes reached fever pitch.

By calling at the bakery, the President was being no more than, carefully even-handed. Earlier, as the 30-car motorcade sped from Aldergrove airport to the city, it made

what appeared to be a genuinely unscheduled stop at Violet's fruit and flower shop in the Protestant Shankill Road.

Mr Clinton ordered his driver to stop and he and his wife strolled into the shop. "Hello, I'm Bill Clinton and this is my wife Hillary," he told Violet Clarke politely but unnecessarily. Mrs Clarke, 31, was briefly speechless, then managed to reply: "Welcome to Northern Ireland."

"This is my first port of call,"

said the President, shaking hands with everyone. He then bought two red apples, two green ones and a bunch of flowers. He produced three £1 coins and handed them over. Mrs Clarke was in such a swoon that she forgot to tell him the price or to give him his change.

She said afterwards that the visit had been completely unexpected and that she had not been checked out in advance by security men — or at least

not as far as she knew. Yet her shop is close to the spot where, in October 1993, a bomb planted in Frizzell's fish shop killed nine loyalists and the republican bomber.

Mr Clinton's brief forays on to the Belfast streets, his triumphant delivery of a speech to an audience in Mackie's Metal Works, and his meeting with Peter Robinson and other loyalist leaders at the East Belfast Enterprise Park were as nothing com-

pared to the reception awaiting him after a short helicopter flight to Londonderry. Beneath the old city walls a crowd of at least 30,000 packed Guildhall Square and the adjoining Fishquay Street to hear John Kerr, the Mayor, and John Hume, the local MP, introduce the President. The square was a sea of waving paper stars and stripes, an occasional Irish tricolour, but no Union Jacks. He attracted constant cheers and applause

throughout his speech and then plunged with little obvious security into a lengthy walkabout among a crowd that was largely republican and plainly ecstatic.

At least twelve American Presidents, from Jackson to Nixon, have claimed dissent from Ulster Scots stock. But the 42nd is the first to visit the ancestral soil while in office. And he is certainly the first to leave with four apples and a bag of buns.

Everyone was screened before being allowed into the area.

The President spent the night at Belfast's Europa Hotel — often bombed over the years, most recently two years ago by a 1,000lb IRA car bomb. He chose the Europa precisely because of its history. John Toner, the general manager, said: "This is a major statement by the most powerful man in the world that things are normal in Belfast and he's proving it by staying in the Europa."

## First Lady drops in to hear voice of women on the front line

BY ALICE THOMSON

JOYCE MCCARTAN, a Roman Catholic who lost ten members of her extended family during the Troubles, "nearly collapsed" when the American Embassy rang up last week to arrange the meeting.

She was told that Hillary Clinton — codename Evergreen — wanted to come for a discussion with the Women's Information Drop-in Centre to talk about the difficulties facing community workers in Northern Ireland. Yesterday Mrs Clinton talked to the 66-year-old mother in a room behind a tiny fish-and-chip shop in one of south Belfast's most deprived areas, the Lower Ormeau Road.

She arrived half an hour early, barely acknowledging the crowds. Mrs Clinton had no desire to be a Queen of Hearts. The 15 women community activists chosen from both sides were not there to talk about their families' suffering at the hands of paramilitaries.

There was some brief chat over the stainless steel tea pots, which Mrs Clinton admired, and she was later given one. Then each woman was asked to describe her role. One talked of founding a local youth support group, another had started a cultural centre. All the women were working to bring their communities together for peace, and the centre which has been going since 1979 has become their focal point.

Mrs Clinton gave out advice: "Because of children, we have a link with the future that keeps giving us hope and



Hillary Clinton meeting Joyce McCartan for tea and a discussion yesterday

energy to try to make things better no matter how bad they sometimes seem," she said.

She asked the women what they thought was necessary to bring about lasting peace and received answers ranging from providing better employment to making sure money reached grassroots.

Mrs McCartan told Mrs Clinton: "We've worked over the years together, from both sides of the community, and not been separated. It takes women to bring men to their senses."

Afterwards, Mrs McCartan who has been awarded an

MBE for her services, said: "I've met The Queen, I've met Mary Robinson, the Irish President, and now I have met the American President's wife, and she is the most formidable."

All the activists agreed she was not the kind of woman to discuss recipes or swap family snags. Mrs McCartan added: "She had done a lot of homework and knows a lot of statistics. It's an honour to have her in a wee shop like ours."

The American journalists stood around complaining. "The problem is she just

doesn't give good soundbites like Bill." Outside in the freezing wind, school children in shorts and local women in mini-skirts held banners and chanted: "Hillary, we love you." When the First Lady emerged she did not even register them. She shook hands with Mrs McCartan, the other women hugged each other, and she sped off to join her husband in Londonderry. Claire Callaghan, a single mother waiting with her baby, was impressed. "She's no prissy, fancy wife. She stands up for women's rights. I'm glad she came to support us and I am an admirer. There are a lot of male politicians, all mouth and trousers, and few people bother to hear our side."

Mrs Clinton would have been proud, though most of the crowd were still more interested in her appearance — she was dressed in a grey flannel jacket, pearls and a black pencil skirt.

Gail McDowell, a secretary, said: "Us ladies like to see what she's like in the flesh. I don't like her new hair, it's too regal. But she's got a lovely set of teeth and it's a good excuse to have a little party."

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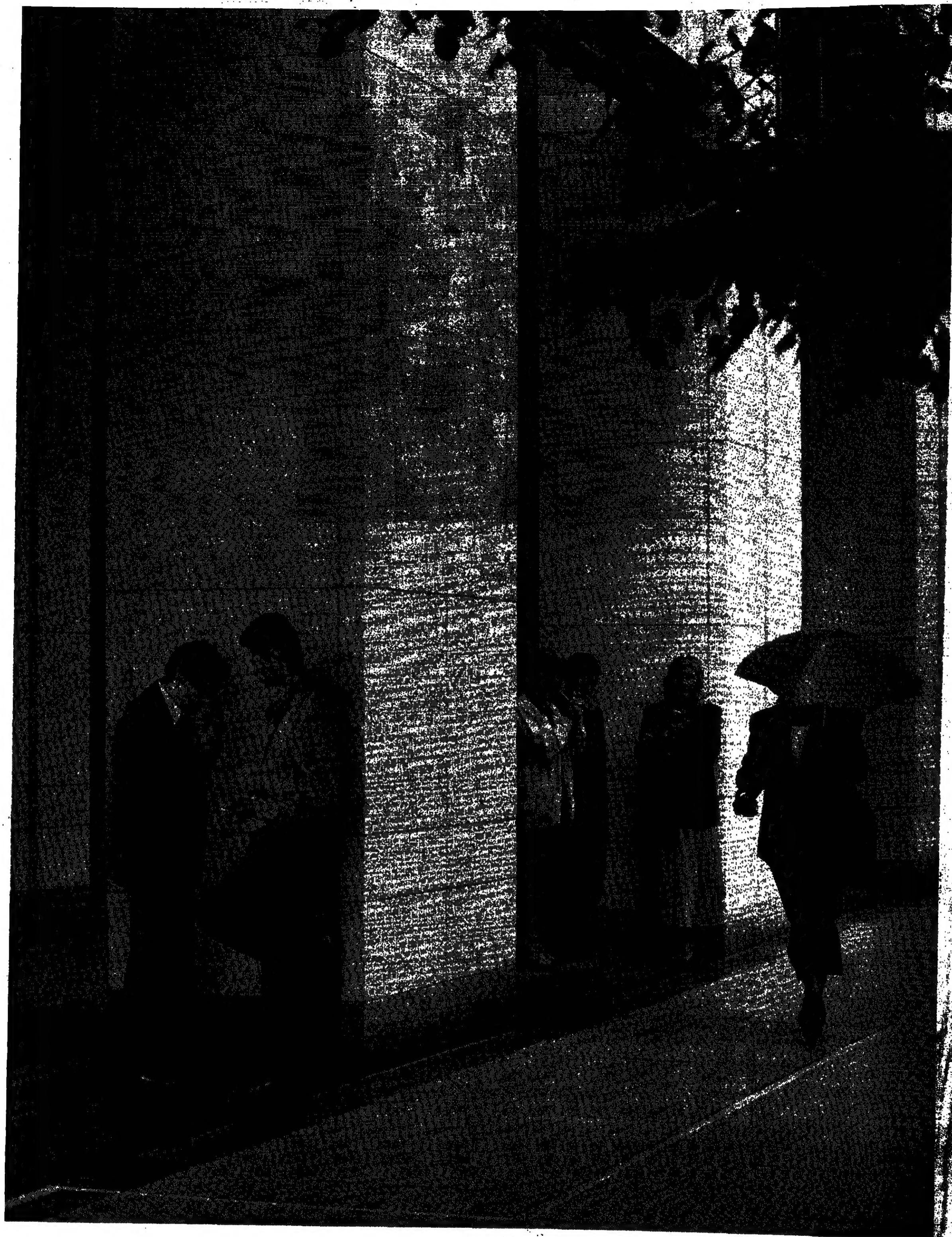
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**By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT**

**BY JOHN YOUNG**

**Leading article, page 21**

Cardinal Hume greeting the Queen outside Westminster Cathedral yesterday

**Carey: had wanted focus on biblical ideal**

The synod voted to "take note" of the report and agreed to an amendment affirming the Church's belief in marriage. The vote was closest in the house of laity, with 122 for and 104 against. Of the clergy, 164 voted for and 60 against. Of 27 bishops present, four voted against. The vote illustrated the gains made by the liberal wing in the synod.

**By CATHERINE MILTON**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT**

Almost a third of households are occupied by couples without children, 27 per cent are lone-person households and only 25 per cent are traditional families — a proportion that has fallen from almost a third in the early 1980s. The rise in the

Only 3 per cent are without a colour television while 9 per cent have no telephone, according to

The annual snapshot of life in Britain, which has been running since 1971, shows that the average number of people per household stabilised at 2.44 in 1993-94 having

The numbers smoking continued to decline with adults admitting to

The survey finds that one in four men drinks more than the recommended maximum level of 21 units a week while 13 per cent of women drink more than their recommended 14 units a week.





## Oxbridge club near to letting in women

By DAVID CHARTER  
EDUCATION  
CORRESPONDENT

THE United Oxford and Cambridge University Club announced yesterday that it had taken a significant step towards ending its 178-year ban on women members.

Admission rules can now be changed by a two-thirds majority, rather than any change needing the consent of 50 per cent of members. The issue can also now be debated every two years instead of five, meaning the matter will be decided at an extraordinary general meeting next month. It will have to be ratified by a postal vote.

The last vote, in 1993, was overwhelmingly in favour of equal rights for women, but was declared void because only 49 per cent of all members were in favour. In February, 69 of the 74 Oxbridge college heads resigned from the club in protest.

Women are currently allowed to become only "lady associate members" with restricted access to areas of the club.

The reformist faction believes its efforts may well turn the spotlight on other all-male establishments, such as the MCC.

## Judge condemns entrenched attitudes on both sides of fence

# Neighbour who pruned hedge wins court battle

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE neighbours' war over the fast-growing cypress hedge ended yesterday in victory for the man who took his chainsaw to the 25ft monster.

His 87-year-old neighbour faces a £70,000 legal bill after four years of county court appearances and one failed appeal in London last year.

The final day of the battle at Birmingham County Court heard an allegation that Bernard Stanton needed such a high hedge because there was a peeping Tom operating from his neighbour's property.

Mr Stanton, who is considering an appeal, said after the hearing that his wife Freda had died of a heart attack weeks after becoming distressed by the hedge being pruned in 1989 without permission by Michael Jones, 67, their neighbour.

Outside the courtroom, Mr Jones's wife Maureen, 66, poured scorn on such a claim. "Freda died of a deep vein thrombosis," she said. "She had dropped a bottle of Ribena

on her leg." Mr Stanton had sued Mr Jones, a retired teacher, for £30,000 damages to replace his line of ten *Cupressus leylandii* trees. He claimed they had been mutilated when his neighbour cut them by 9ft.

As the wheels of justice have slowly ground to their conclusion, the hedge has grown back almost to the height it was when battle commenced.

Mr Recorder Wolton, QC, who has patiently sat through hours of evidence including hours of legal wrangling over the definition of a hedge, said in his ruling: "Both I and the Court of Appeal have made it clear that this is the sort of case that ought to have been resolved a long time ago. This is an example of entrenched attitudes which can be adopted by neighbours which benefits nobody apart from solicitors. It is an expensive situation for neighbours when they get into this position."

The judge said: "The hedge is now sound. The trees look



Michael Jones, left, and Bernard Stanton arriving for the final day of the case

extremely healthy to me. It would be totally unreasonable to claim the cost of re-plantation."

He criticised Mr Stanton, a retired civil engineer, saying he found it very difficult to accept that his real reason for bringing the proceedings was only to recover sufficient money to pay costs and replace the trees. "I have concluded that the plaintiff has not acted realistically or reasonably. I have every sympathy of course with him on the loss of his wife."

The judge freed Mr Jones from his undertaking not to cut the hedge, and upheld his right to maintain, repair or

replace it as a party hedge. Earlier, Edward Pepperall, counsel for Mr Stanton, had told the court: "There is a genuine reasonable reason for him wanting a screen of 25ft. People from the defendant's property had been watching him and his wife through binoculars and had been causing them concern. There had been many incidents. It could happen two or three dozen times. It started perhaps 15 years ago — incidents where somebody from the Jones household was looking through binoculars at people in Mr Stanton's garden. As a serious allegation it is a nasty one. It is an allegation that

really there was a peeping Tom on the defendant's household."

Philip Kremen, counsel for Mr Jones, told the court: "This case has taken up too much judicial time already. What this is about is a vicious neighbours' dispute, accentuated by malice accompanied by a total lack of reason."

Mr Jones said afterwards that the allegation about a peeping Tom — which earned Mr Pepperall a rebuke from the judge — was a complete fabrication. "We had an alibi starting in the area," Mr Jones said, "whether anybody brought any binoculars into the area then..."

## Sprouts put to flight by cut-price turkey

FROZEN turkeys will be cheaper pound for pound than Brussels sprouts this Christmas according to a survey of supermarket chains which found fresh sprouts at 55p lb and frozen turkey at 45p lb. Since then a price war has cut frozen turkey prices further.

Fresh turkey at present costs as much as £1.25 lb, though tests by Reading University showed that expert tasters could find no significant difference between fresh and frozen.

Promotions include: Asda: turkey breast steaks £3.85 a kg, pork rolled shoulder £2.18 a kg, Cox apples 69p a kg, white grapefruit 22p each, carrots 49p for 2kg. Budgens: frozen sausage meat 59p for 400g, mixed salad with peppers 99p for 300g, red potatoes £1.99 for 5kg, marmalade 49p for 454g. Co-op: fresh forequarter beef

## WEEKEND SHOPPING

roast £3.59 a kg, Cherry Valley frozen crispy Peking duck £3.99 for 450g, hand-made shortbread selection £1.39 for 400g, mature farmhouse English cheddar £4.20 for 454g. Harrods: whole York hams on the bone £14 a kg, foie gras pralines with fresh mango rolled in truffle dust £3.95 each, Morbier cheese £9.81 a kg, honey roast salmon £3.25 per 100g. Iceland: skinned chicken breasts £3.78 for 700g, cooked and peeled prawns £6.89 for 800g, smoked salmon £5.99 for 300g, potato croquettes 99p for 90g, 6-8 portion Grand Marnier gâteau £2.49. Marks & Spencer: six salmon fillets £8.99 for 600g, haddock mornay £2.49 for 400g, runner beans 99p for 230g, strawberries £1.99 for 250g. Morrisons: whole trout £2.84 a kg, skate wings £5.27 a kg, broccoli 59p a lb, rich fruit Christmas pudding £1.49 for 4 x 100g. Safeway: fresh turkey mince £1.19 for 340g, Scottish skinned salmon fillets £3.49 for 283g, unsalted half gammon on the bone £2.18 a kg, mince pies 49p for six. Sainsbury: chicken fillets £3.49 for 510g, honey roast water butternut £1.69 for 400g, cauliflower 59p each, herb bread 69p for 170g. Somerfield: fresh tiger king prawns £1.69 for 113g, red pears 45p a lb, Golden Delicious apples 29p a lb, red grapefruit 29p each. Tesco: lamb chump steaks £10.09 a kg, sprats 74p a lb, crumpets 39p for ten, blue Siltan £2.59 a lb, Red William pears 44p a lb. Waitrose: smoked salmon slices £3.99 for 180g, brace of pheasant £5.99 for 1.3kg, savoy cabbage (450g) 45p, clementines 45p a lb.

## Pet ban for driver who towed dogs

Evelyn Isaac, 61, was banned from keeping animals for life yesterday after accidentally dragging two pet dogs to death behind her car. Frantic motorists flagged her down but the dogs were so badly hurt a vet put them down at the scene.

Isaac, of Charfield, Avon, said she had tied her alsatian and labrador dogs to the bumper of her car outside her home as she cooked herself lunch. She set off 45 minutes later to visit her mother with the dogs in tow. Isaac was also fined £500 with £35 costs by North Avon magistrates after admitting causing unnecessary suffering.

## Family sues

Amy Scarran, 15, and her brother Luke, 12, are suing Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Health Commission for damages as dependants after their mother died during surgery for an ectopic pregnancy in 1992. Michael Scarran, 43, of Hayling Island, is also suing for the loss of his wife Anne, 36.

## Doctor wins

A hospital doctor who lost the tops of his left thumb and index finger while chopping meat has won a £220,000 payout from insurers as the case was about to go to court in Newcastle upon Tyne. Independent Insurance Ltd had claimed that the doctor, living in Co Durham, intentionally inflicted the injury on himself.

## Prisons post



General Sir David Ramsbotham, former director of public relations with the Army, takes up his post as Chief Inspector of Prisons today, in succession to Judge Tugendhat. The appointment of Sir David, 61, disclosed in The Times on Monday, was formally announced by Downing Street yesterday.

## TV licence rise

The annual television licence fee will go up from £86.50 to £90 for colour sets and from £28.50 to £30 for black and white from next April, the Government said yesterday. Iain Sproat, the Heritage Minister, said the increases were based on the rate of inflation, which was 3.9 per cent for the year to September 1995.

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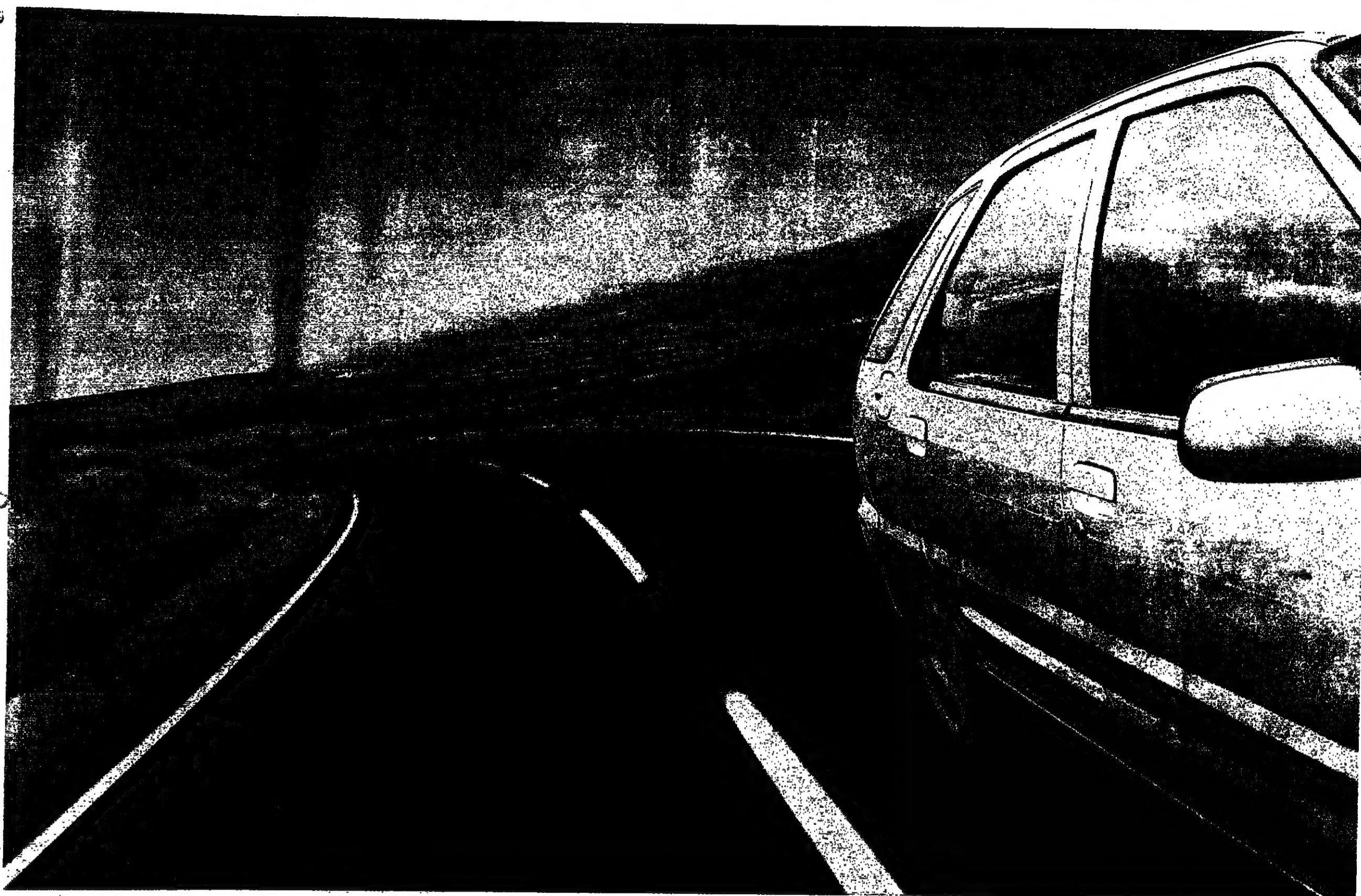
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# Expulsion of Irish terrorist suspect breached EU law

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN broke EU law in the way it expelled an Irish terrorist suspect from Britain without giving him an independent hearing, the European Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

The decision, which was attacked by Tory Euro-sceptic MPs, could force the Government to revise the procedures for exclusion orders under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

But Michael Howard last night described the ruling as "narrow and limited" and said it would not affect the ability of the Government to make orders excluding suspected terrorists. "It doesn't go to the substance of the exclusion order making power; it goes only to procedures," the Home Secretary said.

He made clear that the Government would oppose paying compensation to John Gallagher, 35, a carpenter from Dublin, who successfully brought the legal challenge to the operation of the Act.

The judgment will be used by Euro-sceptic ministers and Tory backbench MPs to persuade Britain's EU partners to give governments the right to appeal against rulings of the court.

Mr Gallagher, a former Sinn Féin activist who served



Howard: described the ruling as limited

a prison sentence in the Irish Republic for possessing firearms, was excluded from Britain in 1991 as a suspected republican terrorist.

He described the judgment as a "vindication of my innocence. These things just can't happen to you," he said. "It's a personal victory because of the circumstances of my exclusion and it's also a victory for others who have had the same thing happen to them."

Mr Gallagher was excluded from Britain in 1991 after living in London for 18 months. He was convicted at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin in 1983 of possessing arms. He served two years of a three-year sentence in Portlaoise prison before being released in 1985. He remained

active in Sinn Féin for 18 months after his release but then severed connections with the republican movement.

The European Court ruled that the operation of the Act was a breach of freedom of movement guaranteed by the Treaty of Rome. It said that the Act breached a 1964 directive which stated that national authorities could not, except in emergencies, issue exclusion orders to foreign nationals "before a competent authority has given its opinion".

The "competent authority" can be appointed by the Government, as long as it has absolute independence and is not subject to any control from the Government, says the directive. That provision is not honoured by the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the Luxembourg judges ruled. But a court official added: "Member states are entitled to make exclusion orders. This case has been about the procedures and process of doing so."

Yesterday's ruling opens the way for others from the Irish Republic who were excluded from Britain to seek compensation.

The case will now go back to the Court of Appeal in London which is expected to rubber-stamp the European Court decision. The Court of Appeal had referred the case to the European Court in 1993.

## Expansion devours England's unspoiled havens

By NICK NUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

AREAS of tranquillity in the English countryside, as defined by the guardians of rural conservation, have shrunk by more than a fifth in the past 30 years.

Studies for the Protection of Rural England and the Government's Countryside Commission say that since the 1960s nearly 19,000 square kilometres of tranquillity countryside have become blighted by noise and man-made ugliness.

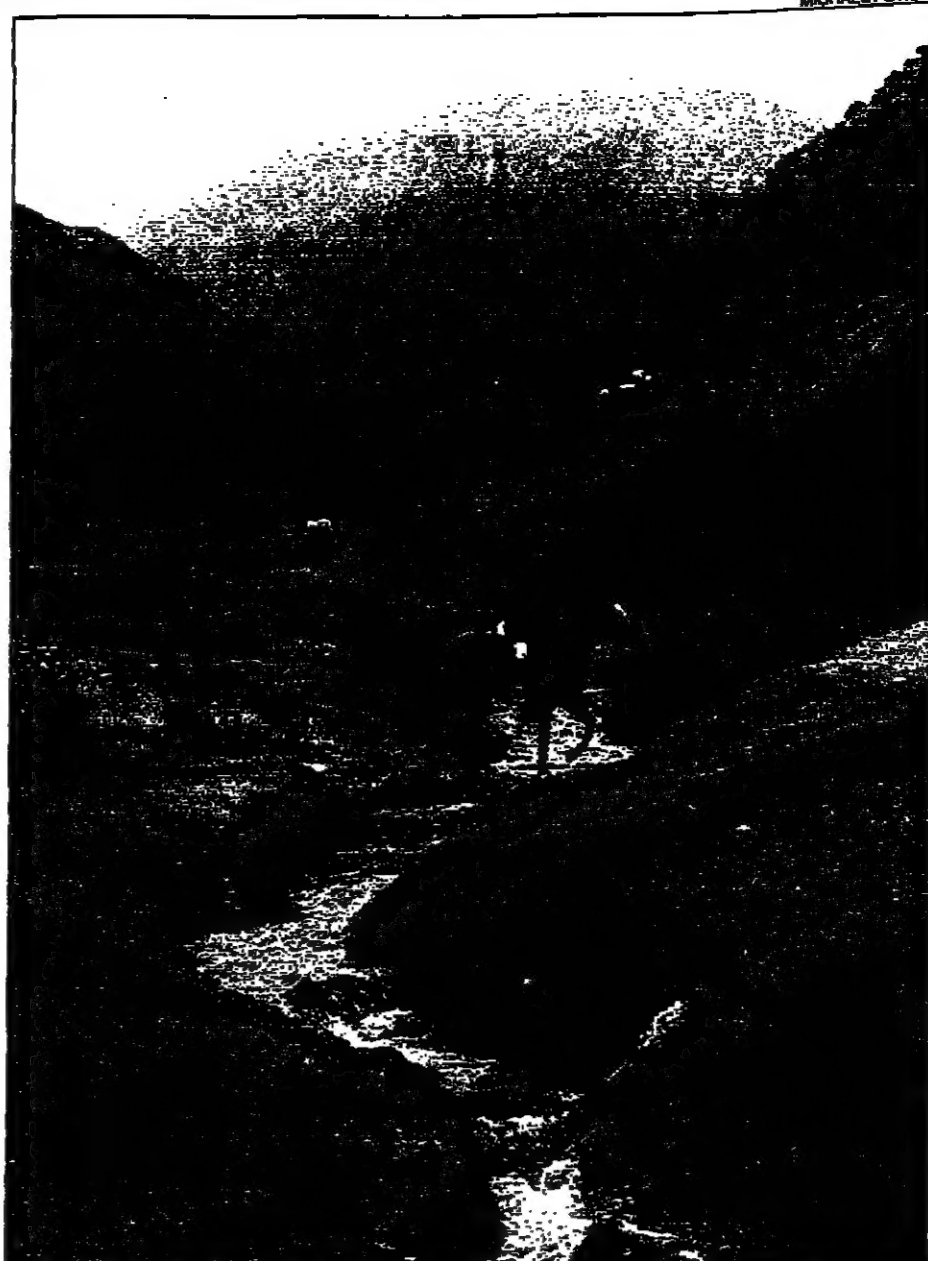
Only three large areas are now left untouched by urbanisation and industry: the Marches of Shropshire and Herefordshire, the north Pennines, and north Devon.

Areas of tranquillity, defined as peaceful and unspoiled places typically between one and three kilometres from roads, four kilometres from a power station, beyond large settlements and the noise of military or industrial activity, remain in all of England's counties. But they are smaller and more fragmented than they were 30 years ago, with large swathes under pressure from development.

Jonathan Dimbleby, the commission's president, said yesterday: "Almost half of England is now disturbed by the impact of roads and traffic... and an area of tranquillity the size of Wales has been lost. Getting away from it all may become a distant memory unless we act to protect rural tranquillity."

Tony Burton, the commission's senior planner, said it was vital that the Department of the Environment's planning guidance on rural areas, to be published next year, include areas of tranquillity as well as green belts and national parks. He called for tighter rules on new roads and housing schemes in such areas.

But Tommy Thompson, director of planning and transport for Leicestershire, said at the report's launch that planning guidelines



A rider in the Shropshire Marches, one of the few remaining tranquil areas

were not the whole answer for defending unspoiled rural areas. Car ownership and use need to be curbed too, so that the pressure for new roads and towns was reduced.

The study into tranquillity areas was carried out by ASH Consulting Group of Didcot, Oxfordshire, which used a geographic information system to mark areas of land taken by urban development and the noise footprints from roads, airfields and activities such as large-scale open-cast mining. The bigger the impact on a tranquil area, the more it was marked.

One square kilometre has been chosen as the minimum tranquil area. Mr Burton said the maps were conservative and they did not include damage from leisure pursuits such as off-road motorcycling, speed boats and clay-pigeon shooting.

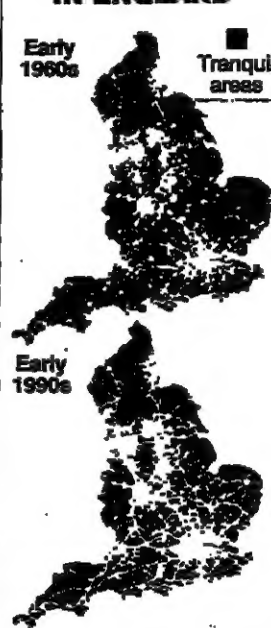
The maps reveal that the

South East is least idyllic. In the 1960s 58 per cent of the region, or 15,767 square kilometres of countryside, was considered tranquil, but that is now down to 38 per cent. The average size of its tranquillity areas is also the lowest, at just 25 square kilometres.

In contrast the North East, including the north Pennines and the Cheviots, is the least changed since the 1960s. Its 5,874 square kilometres of tranquillity is only 9 per cent less than three decades ago.

In the South West, which used to boast the largest continuous areas of unspoiled land, areas of tranquillity are fast breaking up, the maps show. In the 1960s, their average size was 41 square kilometres; that is down to 68 square kilometres. More than 80 per cent of the region was considered tranquil but that has fallen to 66 per cent.

### TRANQUIL AREAS IN ENGLAND



## Night owl disturbs image of rural paradise

By TIM JONES

FAR from the madding crowd, life can be hell. Only the other night the Rev Stephen Hollinghurst was driven to distraction by a hooting owl that had perched on his bedroom window ledge.

On occasion, he is also kept awake by the young farmers dancing in the village hall, which is near the rectory at Pembridge, Hereford and Worcester, an area identified as one of only three main areas of rural tranquillity. Then there are the foxes that bark in the night, the rustling of leaves and the bleating of sheep.

Mr Hollinghurst has no regrets about moving from urban Manchester to an incumbency that covers 40 sq miles and has fewer than 2,000 souls. "Life is slower here, much more tranquil," he said. "People do not appear to be under so much stress although it can be a problem getting things done."

In the north Pennines, Pauline Platts, who runs the High Windy Hall hotel near the village of Garrigill, Cumbria, was helping her son to make Christmas puddings. The only noise was the whistling of the wind. Mrs Platts revels in the peace and scenery and offers stress-free weekends for workers who weary of the town.

Nicholas Harvey, Liberal Democrat MP for North Devon, agreed that it was a haven of peace but added: "These quiet villages must not be preserved in aspic, and retired newcomers must not stand in the way of modest progress designed to keep young people in the countryside."

There was, he said, sometimes a heavy price to pay. One of his constituents was recently quoted £16,000 by an electricity company to connect his home, four miles from the mains. "Clearly there is a case for saying that in rural areas people should not always be charged the full economic price for essential services, which include buses."

Leading article, page 21

## Court backs wheel clampers

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A CLAMPING firm was within its rights to immobilise a car in a private car park, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

The court dismissed an appeal from David Arthur and his wife, Annette, who had unsuccessfully sued a private wheel-clamping firm after his Rover had been immobilised in a car park in Truro, Cornwall, in May 1992.

Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, and two other judges said Mr Arthur had been aware of the risk of clamping when he left his car for 45 minutes to visit council

offices. Owners of private car parks were entitled to clamp unauthorised vehicles if warning notices were clearly displayed and the fine was reasonable, the judges said.

Mr and Mrs Arthur had claimed £1,000 damages against Thomas Anker, senior partner in Armtrac Security Services, for loss of earnings while the car was clamped, malicious falsehood and unlawful interference with the car. But the couple lost the claim at Truro County Court and instead had to pay £560 compensation for the cost of two missing wheelclamps and

£100 damages for an assault on Mr Anker by Mrs Arthur.

Mr and Mrs Arthur, who face a £10,000 legal bill, took their clamped car away in a pick-up truck in the middle of the night rather than pay the £40 fine.

Sir Thomas said the court's decision was based on the medieval legal principle that landowners could confiscate other people's property and demand compensation if it were causing damage. This could be applied to a modern car park, he said.

Law report, page 42

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# Council tax set to soar as Gummer eases capping rule

By Nicholas Wood and Ian Murray

COUNCIL tax bills could rise by up to 15 per cent next year, wiping out nearly half the gains of Kenneth Clarke's Budget, it was disclosed yesterday.

The threat arose after John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, announced that he was relaxing the capping rules that limit the size of council tax increases. His aim was to smooth the path for higher government grants for education to be channelled via local education authorities.

However, council leaders disputed the Government's arithmetic and saying that to pass on the money to schools, they would have to impose big council tax rises.

Senior Environment Department officials conceded that the effect of the relaxation of capping in shire areas now controlled by Labour and Liberal Democrat councils could increase council tax bills by up to 15 per cent.

The average average charge for a Band D house in England is £609. A 10 per cent rise would cost a household £61 a year and a 15 per cent increase £90 a year. Budget tax cuts for a typical married couple on £25,000 a year are projected at £215 next year without allowing for the effects of higher excise duties.

However, much will depend on whether councils spend up

to their new, looser capping ceilings. Officials said that if councils turned to other sources of revenue — such as raising reserves and increasing charges — and made the kind of efficiency savings being implemented in Whitehall, actual increases would be less than the headline inflation figures.

Frank Dobson, shadow Environment Secretary, spoke yesterday of average council tax increases of 5.2 per cent, suggesting that he is wary of walking into a pre-election trap laid by the Conservatives. It was another example of the Government "furtively taking away with one hand the highly publicised [tax] cuts they have been making with the other".

As Mr Gummer made clear yesterday, ministers are poised to denounce big council tax rises as evidence that when Labour gains power it lets spending rip.

The worry for Tony Blair and his Shadow Cabinet is that Labour councillors may ignore their private appeals for restraint. The worry for Tory MPs is that the public may blame central Government rather than town halls for wiping out up to half their gains from lower income tax.

In the Commons, Mr Gummer said that he was taking councils at their word in

relaxing Whitehall controls on budgets.

"The new approach I have outlined will allow individual authorities greater flexibility to adapt their budgets to local circumstances," he said.

The biggest relaxation of capping will come in the county councils, where 3 per cent increases will be allowed. Where councils are spending above their Whitehall targets, which many are, all this extra money will have to come from council tax payers. The fact that council tax covers only about a fifth of overall budgets points to rises of 15 per cent if a local authority spends up to the hilt. Capping limits in boroughs and cities will be tighter, pointing to maximum rises of 7.5 per cent to 10 per cent.

David Rendell, the Liberal Democrat local government spokesman, said that government promises of an extra £878 million for schools were a "shameful con-trick" because no new money was being made available.

Sir Jeremy Becham, chairman of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said: "The Government appears to be giving us a choice between raising tax locally and taking the blame for that, or not raising it and accepting that services will suffer."

## Blair asks MP to explain 'racism'

By Jill Sherman and James Landale

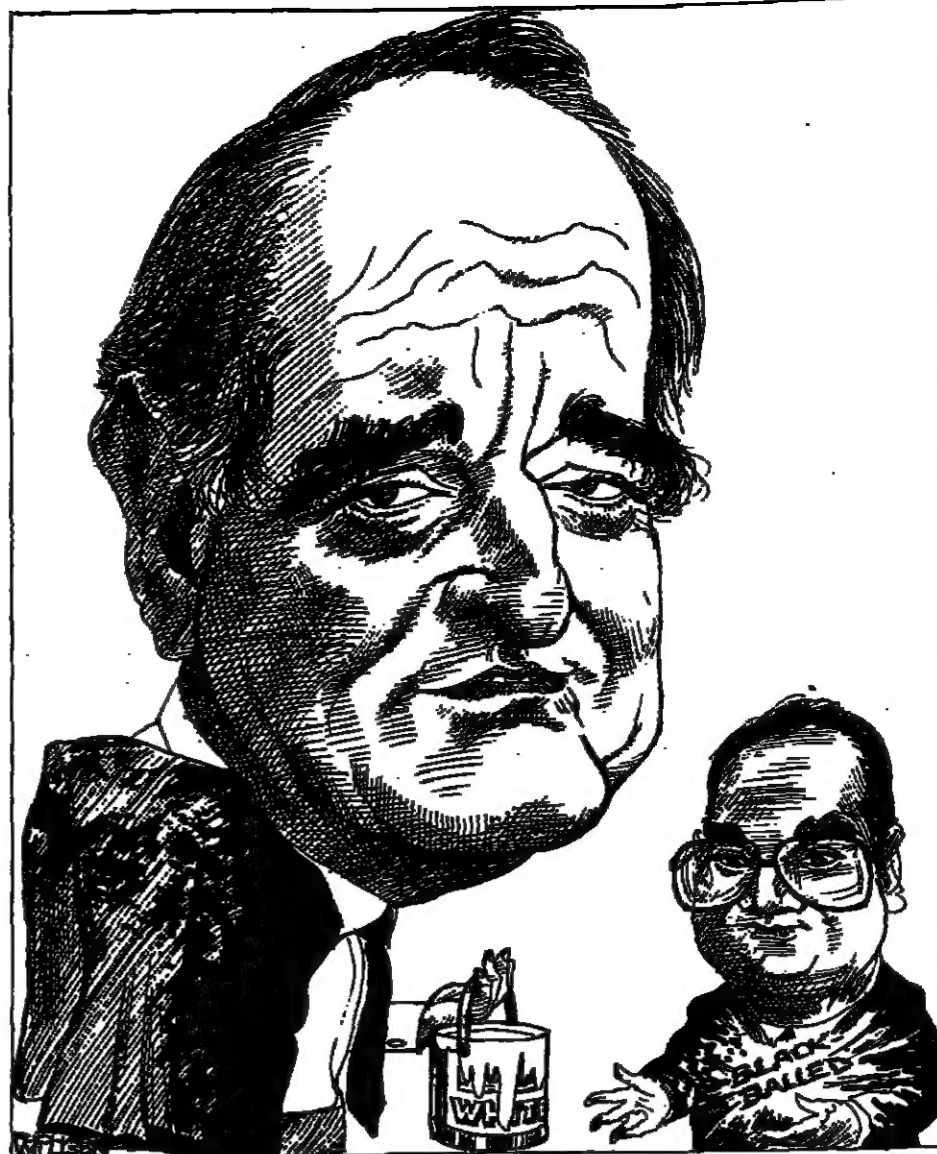
TONY BLAIR last night demanded "a full explanation" from the frontbench MP Keith Vaz after allegations of racism and interference in his Leicester East constituency were made against him.

Mr Vaz, the party's local government spokesman, was called in to see Donald Dewar, Labour's chief whip, yesterday evening after Mr Blair asked the MP to provide a detailed background to remarks he allegedly made during *Dispatches* on Wednesday night.

Mr Blair is expected to decide today whether to take disciplinary action against Mr Vaz, who could be dismissed from Labour's frontbench. Party sources said the meeting between Mr Dewar and Mr Vaz "was a natural justice exercise" to enable both sides to discuss the issue. Mr Vaz is suing *The Sun* and intends to sue *The Guardian*, after both newspapers repeated allegations made in the programme.

The comments in the programme were seized on by Brian Mawhinney, Tory party chairman, who wrote to Mr Blair urging him to sack Mr Vaz if it was proved he had made "openly racist" remarks.

"Mr Vaz was quoted as saying of a candidate for the post of deputy leader of Leicester Council: 'Why should we have a white per-



son?" Dr Mawhinney said. "Given the serious nature of this allegation I would be grateful if you would confirm whether or not Keith Vaz made this statement. If he did I must invite you to dismiss him immediately from your team. In support of the view that we both held that there can be no excuse for racism in public life. If he did not ...

then no doubt you will want him to take appropriate public steps immediately to set the record straight."

Mr Vaz's alleged comments were also raised in the Commons by Nirj Deva, MP for Brentford and Isleworth, in a question to the Prime Minister, prompting Mr Blair to take immediate action. *Dispatches* made allega-

tions against Mr Vaz concerning "undue meddling and interference" in his local authority. This involved accusations of pressure being put on a Labour councillor to vote for Mr Vaz's mother in a battle for the Labour candidacy in a council ward, and of attempted interference in an inquiry into the running of a council home.

## Big firms donate less to Tories

By James Landale  
Political Reporter

CORPORATE donations to the Conservative Party have fallen over the past year, according to research published yesterday.

At the same time, the total amount donated to Conservative Central Office has risen by more than 35 per cent to £12.73 million in the year ending March 1995. The figures reflect a growing tendency by big business to distance itself from the Tory party while small firms and private individuals are increasing their political donations.

A survey of 5,000 major British companies by the Labour Research Department, an independent body, found that firms had given the smallest amount to the Tories for five years. The survey, published in the December edition of *Labour Research*, found that 172 companies gave about £2.46 million to the Tories in the year ending March 1995, down from 198 traced as giving about £2.84 million the previous year.

The survey identified some 50 companies which had stopped giving to the Tories in the past 18 months. They included United Biscuits, which had given an average of nearly £70,000 a year for 15 years; the Rank Organisation leisure group, which gave a total of £435,000 between 1979 and 1993; and the insurance group Sedgwick, which had given £20,000 a year for 15 years.

## Immigration racketeers face seven years in jail

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

RACKETEERS who help to smuggle illegal immigrants and asylum-seekers into Britain face up to seven years in jail under new offences included in a Bill published yesterday.

Immigration officers are to be given extra powers to search ships, aircraft and vehicles for travel documents and a new power to search for people who have remained in Britain without permission.

The Government is aiming to cut illegal immigration as well as save £10 million a year by ending child benefit for families seeking refugee status. The stiffest sanctions have been reserved for racketeers, who charge people thousands of pounds to be smuggled into the country or run bogus marriage operations and promise foreigners jobs.

It will become a criminal offence to help an asylum-claimant either to enter the

country or to remain here by deception. Those convicted could be fined £5,000 or jailed for seven years.

The Asylum and Immigration Bill will make it a criminal offence to employ an illegal immigrant, with fines of up to £5,000. It will not be compulsory for employers to check the immigration status of prospective recruits.

The documents an employer should ask for were specified by the Home Office yesterday. They are a P45 from a previous employer; a British or European Economic Area passport; or a non EEA passport stamped with a permit giving the person permission to live and work in Britain.

The Bill also gives the Home Secretary power to create a "white list" of countries deemed to be safe and from which asylum applications will be presumed to be unfounded. Under the Bill an

asylum-applicant who arrives in Britain having passed through a "safe" country, such as France or Germany, will be deported within 24 hours.

Claude Moraes of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants said the sanctions against employers would be unenforceable. He added: "This Bill will go down in history as the most extreme, vote-orientated immigration legislation since the 1960s."

According to Home Office figures, in the 12 months to the end of September there were 40,180 applications for asylum, almost 37 per cent more than the previous year. The Government is predicting the figure for the year will reach 44,000, just below the record of 44,840 in 1991.

Almost 70 per cent of the applications came from people already in the country. The rest came from people entering at ports and airports.

## £50m extra for mental health services

By Catherine Milton  
Social Services Correspondent

STEPHEN Dorrell yesterday announced an extra £50 million pounds to be spent on mental health services over two years in an attempt to ease public fears about random killings by paranoid schizophrenics.

The Health Secretary was spelling out his spending plans for the year in the wake of the Budget. The announcement on mental health was timed to coincide with the three-month deadline for action that Mr Dorrell set health chiefs after Government inspectors criticised public provision for severely troubled patients in August.

Public concern about the dangers that paranoid schizophrenics being cared for in the community pose to themselves and to others became widespread after the random murder of Jonathan Zito at a London Underground station. Fears were raised again this summer when a report into the death of Jonathan Newby, a young and inexperienced volunteer who died when he was left alone in charge of a voluntary-sector hostel full of severely mentally ill people.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to Home Office ministers and the Prime Minister. After a statement by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, on local government finance, MPs debated the Budget, third day.

In the Lords: debates on the Family Law Bill, second reading, and reports of human rights violations in Sudan. TODAY: neither House is sitting.

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Big firms donate less to Tories

Teachers in jail

Forsyth tries to outflank the opposition by granting greater power to local government

# Battle of Britain begins over rival plans for Scotland

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALL four main political parties pitched into battle yesterday over plans to devolve power from Westminster to Scotland.

The Tories took their boldest steps towards loosening government control of Scottish services, conceding that it was time for an overhaul of government north of the border. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, set out proposals that he said were "the first wave in a tide of reform", giving local authorities greater independence from his department.

He put forward 24 plans to devolve power, including removing central controls on the building of schools and shopping centres, reducing government control on building standards, and devolving control of grants for the training of teachers and social workers.

He also agreed to consultations on a package of measures put forward by the

Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, including devolving power on school closures, responsibility for trunk roads and funding for drug development schemes.

In the face of rapidly dwindling support in Scotland, Mr Forsyth insisted that his plans proved that the Tories were not an "English-inclined intransigent party". Tory leaders concede that a more sympathetic approach to decentralising power is needed to claw back support in Scotland, which has fallen from 25 per cent in 1992 to about 12 per cent.

His proposals were ridiculed by the opposition parties, which are campaigning for a devolved assembly or total independence. But Mr Forsyth was adamant that his plans underpinned his declared ambition to pass power to a local level. He threw down

a direct challenge to the other parties over their plans for a Scottish parliament, claiming that families would be forced to pay £6 a week more tax and that £5 billion of inward investment would be jeopardised.

In a St Andrew's Day speech in which he set out the Government's plans, Mr Forsyth said: "Good government needs at times to be examined, to be overhauled and to be renewed, and now is such a time."

He dismissed as a "cynical political exercise" joint proposals by Labour and the Liberal Democrats for a devolved parliament, and pointed to the "haves" that would be caused by plans to permit the raising of extra taxes. He said the move towards an assembly would mean the post of Scottish Secretary would be sidelined or abolished and Scotland's influence at Westminster would be "hugely diminished".

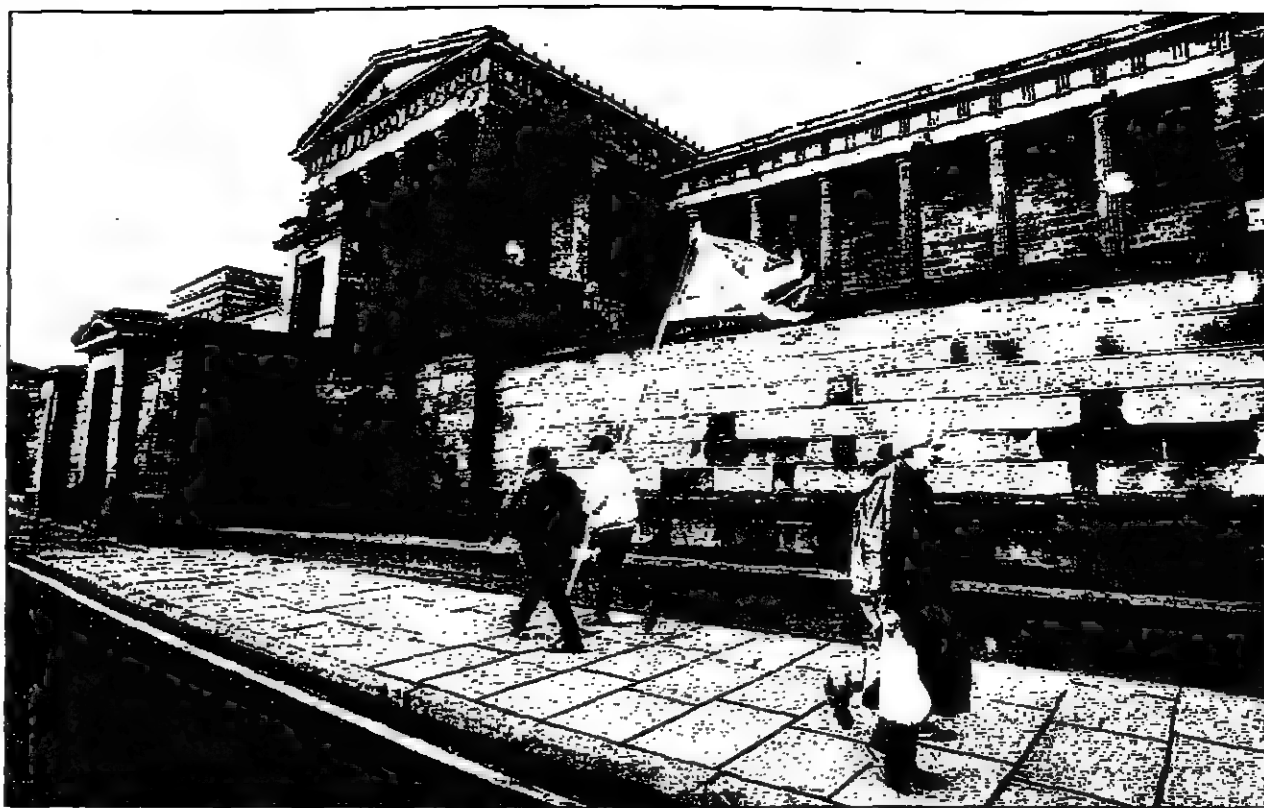
Mr Forsyth, delivering the Richard Stewart Memorial Lecture, said that his own plans would help to invigorate local government. Although he conceded that no single plan could meet the overall aspirations of the Scots, he said: "These ideas amount to a considerable shift in the entire emphasis of Scottish government, notably in its accountability to our people."

Mr Forsyth's proposals came as the Scottish National Party launched a blueprint for independence and Labour and the Liberal Democrats announced joint plans for a Scottish assembly.

Alex Salmond, leader of the SNP, said: "Our parliament will be a modern democratic institution which sweeps away the archaic pompous and irrelevant mysteries of Westminster and replaces them with transparent procedure, freely accessible to all."

George Robertson, Labour's Scottish spokesman, announced the Scottish Constitutional Convention plans for a 129-member parliament by saying: "Here are two competing political parties laying aside their differences to join with an unprecedented range of other Scottish opinion to forge a better system of government for our country."

"Here then is the tangible evidence of a new politics for Scotland — the politics of hard agreement. We don't just want a change of government — we want a change in the way people are governed."



The Royal High School in Edinburgh, which is expected to be the home of any future Scottish parliament

## Rising star of the Tory Right provides an unexpected sparkle

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Michael Forsyth has been one of the unexpected successes of the July Cabinet reshuffle. He has added sparkle and aggression to a lacklustre Cabinet, forcing his opponents onto the defensive for the first time in well over a decade.

His twin-prong initiative on the Government in Scotland, first in the Commons on Wednesday and then in a lecture last night, can be queried for being thin on substance, but it was a tactical coup.

He stole some of the limelight from the Scottish Constitutional Convention on the day that this Labour and Liberal Democrat backed body launched details of proposals for a Scottish Parliament with tax-raising powers.

Mr Forsyth's own plans build on the work of Ian Lang, his predecessor as Scottish Secretary, as put forward in a White Paper two years ago. The ideas are a further attempt to defuse long-standing demands for fully-fledged Scottish devolution, both by extending the role of the Scottish Grand Committee of

all 72 MPs north of the border to examine legislation and question ministers and by removing some financial and other controls from local government. Many of his suggestions are sensible in improving parliamentary scrutiny and giving local councils more discretion over their budgets, but they are firmly in a unionist context and do not amount to legislative devolution.

More significant is Mr Forsyth's tone and style. His three predecessors since 1979 — George Younger, Malcolm Rifkind and Mr Lang — were in the One Nation tradition. They were never Thatcherites by temperament or background and sought to cope with the non-Tory majority in Scotland in more emollient ways than their Tory colleagues in England. Occasionally, they had successes, as Mr Lang did at the 1992 election by raising the standard of unionism. He helped to avert the widely predicted wipe-out of Scottish Tory MPs

and slightly increased their overall representation. But if Mr Lang was always the gentleman, Mr Forsyth is the player. He has always been a fighter: as an early, and persistent, challenger of the predominantly collectivist culture of Scotland, as an MP for the highly marginal Stirling, and as an abrasive politician who has often offended the Scottish establishment. Baroness Thatcher describes him in her memoirs as "the real powerhouse for Thatcherism at the Scottish Office", continually battling as junior minister against Mr Rifkind and fighting to reduce the role of the State.

promoting him to Minister of State, but, overall, this was widely seen as a rebuff to Thatcherism in Scotland.

Mr Forsyth soon moved south to become a minister of state at the Department of Employment, and then Home Office, where he was initially mistrusted for his Thatcherite sympathies and alleged leanness. But he built up a reputation for his political skills in being flexible on details while firm on principles. His former critics at the top of the Scottish Tory party in time removed their objections to his promotion and he became the obvious choice to succeed Mr Lang (as would also have happened if John Redwood had won the Tory leadership).

Mr Forsyth's flurry of activity will not of itself improve the Tories' parlous electoral prospects in Scotland. But it should strengthen the Tory position in what has been a one-sided devolution debate, while also enhancing Mr Forsyth's standing as a rising star of the Right.

PETER RIDDELL

### I would never harm the Union, says Blair

BY JILL SHERMAN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR declared last night that he would never do anything that could "break up the United Kingdom".

Setting out the "patriotic case for devolution", the Labour leader said that by admitting the need for change in the way Scotland was run, the Government had recognised that it had been wrong.

"To us, devolution is essential if the unity of Britain is to be maintained and strengthened," said Mr Blair. "Let me be absolutely clear: I would never agree to anything which threatened to break up the United Kingdom. Scotland is a vital part of it in every way."

Addressing a Time magazine dinner in London, Mr Blair also tried to counter fears raised by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, that a Scottish parliament — something proposed by Labour — would use its powers to increase taxes. Mr Blair conceded that it would be able to vary tax rates by 3p, up or down. Mr Blair said: "It is for the people to elect Parliament and the Parliament to decide whether taxes should rise or fall, and justify its decision."

"There is a very big difference between having tax-raising powers and raising tax. Parties proposing matters connected with taxes have to be elected on their programme; and governments that raise taxes face the electorate."

Speaking on the day that the Labour and Liberal Democrat-backed Scottish Constitutional Convention published its plans for a Scottish parliament, he said the real threat to the Union came from a government that would not face the wishes of the Scottish people. All the Government now proposed was that the House of Commons Scottish Grand Committee met more often, discussed more non-contentious legislation and occasionally met senior ministers. "They do not even begin to close the democratic deficit."

### WHERE THE PARTIES STAND

**TORIES** The Government proposes to devolve central government power in Scotland:

- Scottish Grand Committee, comprising all 72 Scottish MPs, to sit more frequently in Scotland and in more locations
- Committee to debate uncontroversial Scottish Bills in full but final vote on legislation to take place at Westminster
- Special standing committees to allow expert witnesses to give evidence on Scottish Bills
- Cabinet ministers to appear before Scottish sittings of the committee
- Michael Forsyth, Scottish Secretary, to consult on wide-ranging plans to devolve powers from the Scottish Office to local authorities and community councils
- Measures to be considered include removing government control of shopping centre building, requirement to seek government approval for local bylaws, and the ceiling on capital spending for new school building

**LAB/LIB DEMS** The two parties formed the Scottish Constitutional Convention to produce joint proposals:

- Parliament of 129 MPs, 73 to be elected from present constituencies by first-past-the-post system, and 56 from eight regional constituencies by proportional representation. Holding a seat both at Westminster and Edinburgh will not be permitted
- Single chamber, sitting for fixed four-year term, with power to raise or reduce tax by up to 3p in the pound
- Equal number of men and women MPs
- Strengthened powers over domestic issues, such as education, training, health, local government, home and legal affairs and industry

**SNP** The nationalists want full independence, with membership of the European Union and close ties with the United Kingdom:

- Single-chamber parliament with full legislative powers
- 200 MPs elected by proportional representation, two from each of 72 existing constituencies, and 58 from party lists
- Scotland to be an independent member of European Union, Nato and the Commonwealth
- Bill of Rights, including rights to housing, health and education, to be incorporated in a written constitution
- The Queen to remain Head of State but Scottish parliament's Chancellor to act on her behalf
- Scotland to promote the creation of an Association of States of the British Isles

## Budget Hits HE

Universities and colleges face the risk of shipwreck as the Government cuts their budgets to pay for schools, health and the police.

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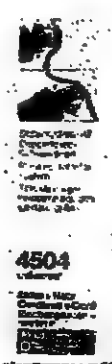
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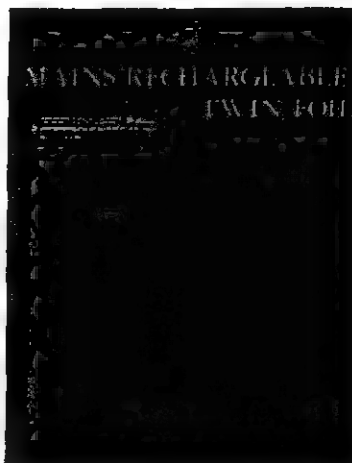


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**Times Christmas Appeal: readers are asked to help a unit treating illnesses long regarded as fatal**

## Better care offers hope of surviving leukaemia

By JOHN YOUNG

TWELVE years ago Professor Ross Pinkerton, a quietly spoken Irishman who trained as a paediatrician in Belfast and Dublin, joined the staff of the Great Ormond Street hospital in London.

Since then progress in the treatment of cancer, particularly among children, has accelerated. Professor Pinkerton would not, of course,

oncologist at the hospital's Children's Cancer Unit, he has played a vital role in applying that research to the treatment of patients. The main reason for improved survival rates has been the increased use of chemotherapy, the application of high doses of toxic chemicals to kill the diseased cells. Of patients suffering from acute myeloid leukaemia, for example, more than half are now fully cured, compared with only one fifth ten years ago. In the case of Ewing's sarcoma, a bone cancer, the use of stronger chemotherapy combined with surgery has increased the survival rate from 40 per cent to nearly 60 per cent.

In non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a lymph gland cancer, the cure rate for advanced disease has improved from about one third to more than two thirds. Among children who relapse after remission, the use of bone marrow transplants has significantly increased the eventual cure rate. He ac-



Professor Ross Pinkerton in the cancer unit where he has seen great strides in techniques to beat cancer

knowledges that the reason some people develop cancer is still almost entirely a mystery. In a very few cases there is some evidence that the disease could be hereditary, notably eye cancer, and that lymphoma may sometimes be the result of a virus, but little else. Children are particularly susceptible to leukaemia, it appears, because their bodies are busy fighting off a range of

infections and the bone marrow becomes very active. A national survey of children with cancer is looking for common factors.

Children generally respond more readily than adults to chemotherapy — but sadly not always. The main objective of the clinical research programme at the Royal Marsden is to try to understand why some children's

cancers are highly sensitive to chemotherapy and are easily cured whereas others, while initially responding to treatment, soon recur.

"We need to understand the mechanisms involved in these forms of drug resistance, why they develop and what changes in the cancer cell enable them to resist treatment," Professor Pinkerton says. "It is wonderful that with

chemotherapy and radiotherapy we can cure up to two thirds of children. But we want to cure the other third."

Such intensive treatment, however, is not without its cost. As well as loss of hair, the patient's immune system is seriously affected, making him or her vulnerable to illnesses ranging from relatively minor afflictions such as mouth ulcers or diarrhoea to

potentially fatal viruses and infections which can strike at short notice and demand constant vigilance from nursing staff.

Significant advances have been made in recent years in alleviating some of the complications. The Royal Marsden was the first unit to evaluate a series of anti-sickness drugs. Professor Pinkerton says that the drugs have revolutionised the tolerance of chemotherapy. In the past vomiting was an inevitable side-effect, whereas now it is possible to control in most children.

Slightly surprisingly, he describes the Royal Marsden as primarily a research institute. Because it shares a site with the Institute of Cancer

Research and Cancer Research Campaign laboratories, scientists work side by side. Advances in treatment can quickly be transferred from the laboratory into clinical practice.

An important factor in the improvements of the past decade has been the co-operation between the 22 specialist children's cancer centres under the umbrella of the United Kingdom Children's Cancer Study Group. That allows treatments to be agreed and evaluated.

But original ideas can only come from individual institutions and their dedicated staff, Professor Pinkerton says. That is where units like his come into their own.

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### MEDICAL BRIEFING

## Children are no less refined if they take sugar

For more than 70 years temper tantrums, poor performance at school, irritability, tearfulness and a host of other school and nursery misdemeanours have been blamed on sugar.

In 1922 W. R. Shannon, an American, suggested that behavioural problems in childhood could be induced by refined sugar, and in 1947 his views were reinforced by T. G. Randolph, writing in the *Journal of Paediatrics* about what he termed the tension fatigue syndrome in children, which he attributed to the consumption of sugar.

In the 1970s, when the back-to-nature culture with its advocacy of rough wholemeal bread, beans and raw vegetables was at its height, refined sugar was thought of as a near poison by many musing parents whether they lived in California, New York or this country.

Dr Mark Wolraich, Dr David Wilson from the Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and Dr Wade White, of the United States Naval Hospital in Japan, have investigated this fear that sugar is a destructive influence on a child's behaviour and intellectual progress. The report, recently published in the *Journal of American Medical Association*, analysed the case histories of 1,800 children in 23 separate statistically sound studies.

It makes good news for the parents. A lump or two of sugar, a few boiled

sweets, or a chocolate mint might not do much for their children's teeth or for their waistlines, but it will not turn them into infant hooligans or hyperactive fools.

The doctors' analysis of the various reports shows that, despite marked differences in the social background and age of the children studied, their reactions to sugar were equally reassuring. Sugar, so far as could be ascertained, did not affect either the behaviour or the learning ability of the children. Very minor variations in mood might have escaped detection in the analysis, but this seems unlikely.

The research workers pondered the question as to why this particular myth of the evils of refined sugar had arisen. They came to the conclusion that, in those earlier surveys, in which the strict rules of the double-blind medical trial were ignored — that neither the person giving the sweetener nor the recipient were aware of its nature — the parents' reports on their children merely reflected their own beliefs or expectations.

Parental judgement on the influence of sugar on children's behaviour tended to reflect publicity on the subject available to lay people, and presumably the prejudices of friends, neighbours and their peer group in general.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

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# Government's victory proves hollow as Jaffna rebels reject surrender and regroup

## Tamils vow to step up guerrilla campaign

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS  
IN KOKKADICHOLY, SRI LANKA

A FEW miles into the country-side beyond Batticaloa, in eastern Sri Lanka, one thing is obvious — the Government is paying dearly for its impending victory over the Tamil Tigers in Jaffna City.

From here it hardly seems like a victory. The rebels have lost their mini-state in the north but have gained freedom to move around almost the entire Eastern Province. Government troops have all but abandoned the region, save for principal urban areas, to concentrate on the Jaffna peninsula.

Armed Tigers are pouring into the east in readiness for a new kind of war. With no mini-state left to protect, they will revert to guerrilla attacks. Colombo, the capital, will be a primary target.

In the village of Kokkadicholai, five miles from the government-held town of Batticaloa, a bespectacled, middle-aged man sat ponder-

ing the startling changes in the civil war. Karikalan — an assumed name — is deputy head of the Tigers' political wing, a key strategist in one of the world's most proficient guerrilla groups.

"We will look for areas that are easy to attack," he said. "We will target people or institutions responsible for killing Tamil people. We will strike whenever we will find an opportunity. This will become a guerrilla war once more."

The war is being fought nose-to-nose. On one side of Batticaloa lagoon, a lone policeman with a semi-automatic rifle watches Tamils crossing by ferry from the city into Tiger-controlled territory a few hundred yards away across the water. Other policemen with spiked rods check bags of wheat and flour for guns.

Karikalan said several hundred Tigers defending the

centre of Jaffna city would fight to the death. All expected to die. Troops were taking heavy casualties from mines and booby-traps. "The army said two weeks ago that they were about to take Jaffna. They are forced to move inch by inch."

The army now controls perhaps 20 per cent of the Eastern Province, giving the Tigers a free run through the country-

side. According to Karikalan, the rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran is heading military operations from somewhere on the Jaffna peninsula. "We were expecting a major assault on Jaffna city," Karikalan said. "We made a strategic withdrawal with most of our equipment. We can move around freely in the east and we still control much of the Jaffna peninsula."

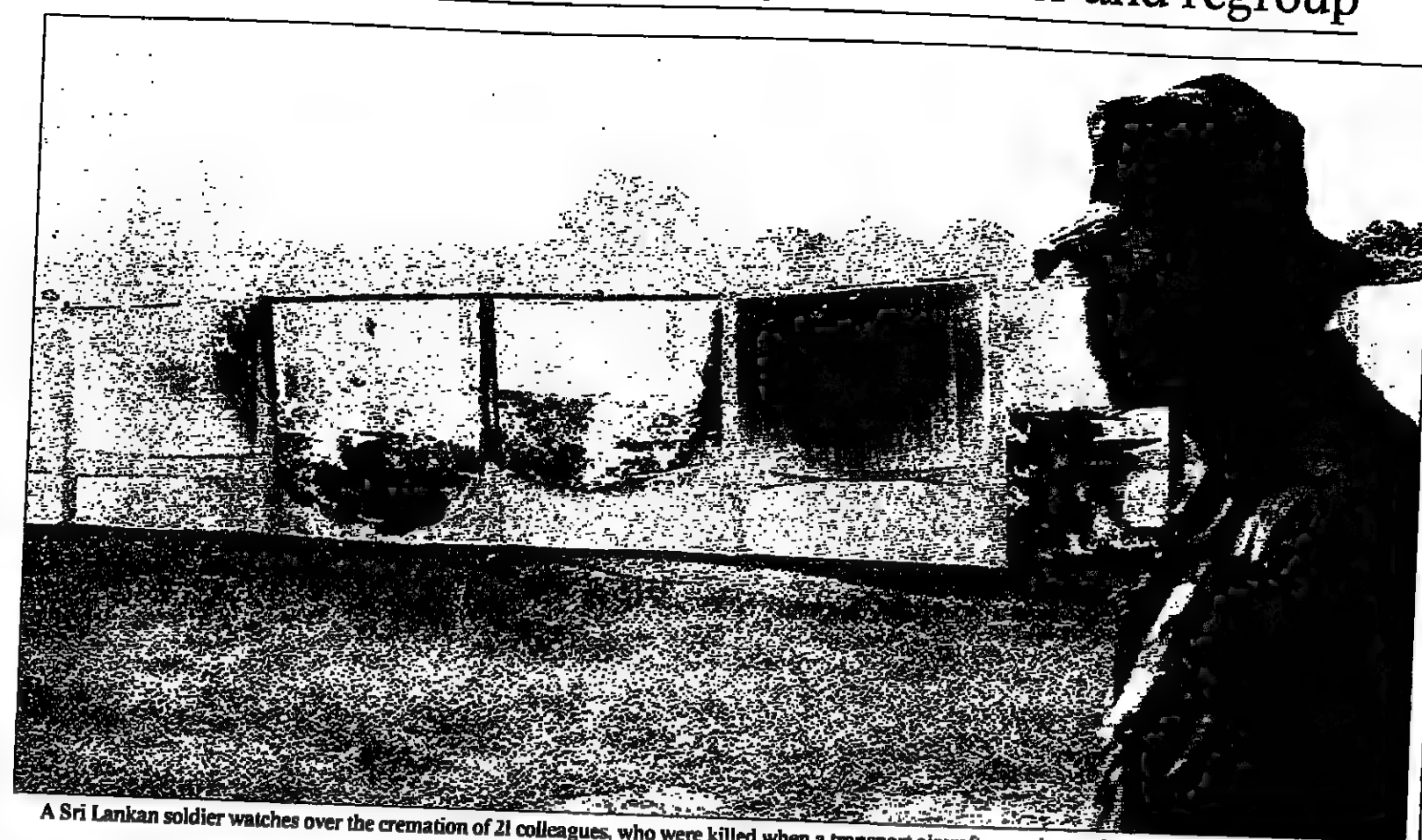
He acknowledged that the Tigers had lost much of their international prestige because of their perceived political intransigence and their alleged massacre of Sinhalese peasants in northern villages. "We did not massacre those villagers," he said. It may have been another Tamil militant group.

He insisted that the Government was not sincere about its

offer to create a virtually autonomous Tamil-dominated region in the north and east. The Tigers had never been formally shown any plans. "The proposals have not been given any legal expression."

The army is obviously embarrassed by its failure to capture Jaffna city centre. There is clearly no prospect of beating the rebels militarily.

Father Harry Miller, an American Jesuit who has lived in Sri Lanka for 47 years, said in Batticaloa that the Tigers had encroached to the fringes of the city. "The Tigers may be forced out of Jaffna, but they will simply reappear somewhere else. I think we are in a worse position now than before the Government launched its offensive," he said.



A Sri Lankan soldier watches over the cremation of 21 colleagues, who were killed when a transport aircraft went down off the northern Jaffna peninsula

### WORLD SUMMARY

## González beaten on abortion

Madrid: Felipe González's minority Socialist Government has been forced to drop a Bill on virtually unrestricted abortion after it was defeated by the opposition centre-right Popular Party and the Catalan Nationalist Party, which holds the balance of power (Edward Owen writes).

The Communist United Left party said that the defeat of the Bill, that would allow abortion within 12 weeks of pregnancy, was "defrauding women". Abortion in Spain is allowed only if there are doubts about the woman's health, the foetus is deformed or the woman has been raped.

## Thousands flee rain of lava

Leon, Nicaragua: The Cerro Negro volcano, 75 miles north-west of Managua, rained down lava and hot sand on farmland, forcing thousands to flee on foot and by bus and oxcart. Debris blocked roads and families were feared trapped in remote rural communities, including the village of El Porvenir. "People are beginning to panic," the chief of the national civil defence programme said. (AP)

## 17 die in Kabul rocket attack

Kabul: Seventeen civilians were killed and 26 injured when the Taliban militia launched a rocket attack on the Afghan capital to avenge a military defeat this week, defence officials said.

Six rockets hit homes, stalls and streets in the central market area. More than 150 people died in attacks on Kabul last month. (AFP)

## Filipina maid will not appeal

Dubai: Sarah Balabagan, the Filipina maid convicted of killing her employer in the United Arab Emirates, will not appeal against the sentence of 100 lashes and a year in jail imposed by an Islamic court, judicial sources said. She had initially been sentenced to death. (Reuters)

## Fahd admitted to hospital

Dubai: King Fahd, 73, of Saudi Arabia, is in hospital in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, for medical check-ups. The royal court did not disclose whether he was ill. The Economist said last month that he was in poor health. Initial reaction on world oil futures markets was muted. (Reuters)

## Plutonium protest in Tokyo

FROM PEREGRINE HODSON  
IN TOKYO

A SHIPMENT of deadly plutonium was transported through the heart of Tokyo yesterday, as Greenpeace activists waved flags and banners in protest.

Four lorries, draped in blue tarpaulins with unobtrusive radiation signs, travelled along an overhead highway — one of many currently being strengthened in Tokyo following the disastrous Kobe earthquake which toppled sections of similar roads.

The shipment was on its way from the Tokai Mura nuclear development facility to the Monju fast-breeder reactor in western Japan.

Greenpeace said the plutonium was part of a shipment which was processed in France and sent to Japan in 1993, on a voyage that met protests in a number of countries along the route.

In Japan, plutonium is only stored in fast-breeder reactors which to date have produced no electricity.

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# Mexico loses faith in lofty dreams of 'jinxed' Zedillo

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MEXICO CITY

"Welcome to the nightmare!" That was one of the messages sent a year ago to President Zedillo of Mexico on the day he was sworn in.

The sender was Marcos, the guerrilla leader who heads an Indian peasant army in the southern state of Chiapas.

Señor Zedillo answered him that day with an outline of lofty dreams. But a year on Mexicans have seen nightmares rather than dreams fulfilled.

Señor Zedillo's first anniversary today finds Mexico in its worst economic recession in recent history. Failed economic policies, unanswered demands for political reforms and growing evidence of official corruption have destroyed public confidence in the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.

The party has governed Mexico for almost 67 years, but many analysts believe its days of absolute power are numbered, and even question whether Señor Zedillo will survive his six-year term. Public opinion polls give him only a 20 per cent approval rating.

Mexicans say Señor Zedillo carries a jinx. He was never meant to get the job: the first-choice candidate, Luis Coloso, was assassinated in March last year at a rally in Tijuana.

Since becoming President, Señor Zedillo has been bedevilled by one mishap after another. September's annual Independence Day parade was marred by a fatal collision of three military aircraft in an display over the capital.

Later that month the jinx struck again. Only days after the President attended cere-

monies for the opening of the shrimp season, Hurricane Ismael destroyed the west coast fishing fleet. Dozens of fishermen were lost at sea.

When Mexico played Spain in a tennis tournament, fans urged Señor Zedillo to stay away. He did not, against the odds, Mexico won.

The President is most blamed for his handling of key political and economic decisions. Only days after taking office, he tinkered with currency exchange rates and the peso crashed. Panicked investors abandoned what was once touted as the world's strongest emerging market.

In January, he announced a political pact that would usher in a new era of fair play. Mexico would cease to be the ugly duckling of democracy, his advisers claimed. Within 48 hours the pact was in pieces.

Señor Zedillo had promised to overturn a fraudulent election in the state of Tabasco. But he was rebuffed by



Zedillo: bedevilled by a series of mishaps

hardliners in the ruling party. His inability to control undemocratic elements in the party was clear.

To his credit, Señor Zedillo has led efforts to reduce fraud in regional polls. But the ruling party is finding that it cannot win clean elections. When other parties were banned from local elections in the capital last month, voters stayed away from the polls, resulting in a turnout estimated at less than 20 per cent.

The opposition National Action Party now governs four of the country's 31 states and 12 of the largest 20 cities.

According to Gabriel Zaid, the respected Mexican writer, "the political violence, presidential disorder, economic and administrative ineptitude, the crimes and corruption of the system, its impositions and lies, have won [the ruling party] the ever increasing repudiation of society".

When he was elected, most Mexicans knew little about Señor Zedillo, 43, a grey party bureaucrat. The President, who had campaigned on a slogan of "well-being for the family", quickly discovered he had a credibility problem.

Instead of gearing policies to volatile investor markets, critics say Mexico needs its own solutions to revive domestic production and rekindle consumer confidence. Government policies have done little to help the small and medium-sized companies which employ most workers.

But Señor Zedillo refuses to change tack. Critics say that he lacks the courage to take the bold steps necessary to rescue the country.

# Tycoon signs on dotted line

Ivana weds her No.3 in borrowed diamonds

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

IVANA TRUMP, her lily of the valley bridal bouquet wilting under the glare of television lights, has finally wed Riccardo Mazzucchelli, her Italian beau. The service, held in a New York hotel lobby, was preceded by a year of pre-nuptial agreement negotiations which made the Balkan peace talks in Dayton, Ohio, look like a vague promise to "do lunch".

The new Mrs Mazzucchelli, 46, wore borrowed diamonds worth \$1.2 million (\$77,000) and the smile of a digress. She has been married twice before. The previous incumbent was Donald Trump, a Manhattan property developer, from whom she finally extracted a \$25 million divorce settlement.

Mr Mazzucchelli, 51, described as a businessman, is reported to have won his bride's hand only after signing a briskly worded pre-nuptial contract. He wore a dinner jacket, she a pale blue satin suit by Thierry Mugler.

Guests at Wednesday's ceremony included the singer Diana Ross, the pornographer Bob Guccione, and Barbara Walters, the television presenter. Such was the mêlée of reporters and cameramen outside the hotel that Miss Ross nearly missed the event.

During the service the couple drew laughter from the congregation by doing a shimmy before the temporary altar. Miss Walters remarked afterwards that Mr Mazzucchelli gripped hold of his bride from the moment she



Mr and Mrs Mazzucchelli after their wedding in the New York hotel lobby

arrived at the hotel — perhaps lest she change her mind. As the couple advanced down the makeshift nave, the Peter Dinklage String Quartet ("birthdays, weddings and bar mitzvahs — attractive rates") offered a version of

Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Moments after the exchange of vows the lobby of the Mayfair Regent Hotel was cleared by attendants and transformed into a floral-trimmed dining room for the reception. Catering was by Le

Cirque, Manhattan's splashiest restaurant. This being skyscraperville, the wedding cake extended to six tiers. The couple will live in New York, London, Connecticut, and on board their new motor yacht, Ivana.

# Gingrich is named in 'slush fund' case

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH, the House Speaker, suffered a further blow to his popularity yesterday when the Federal Election Commission charged that a political organisation he led for years had provided the congressman with more than \$250,000 (£161,000) in hidden support for his re-election campaign in 1990.

Court papers filed by the commission are certain to fuel a Democratic campaign to denounce the Republican politician in the run-up to next year's presidential elections.

Last September Mr Gingrich was questioned at length by the commission over the sources of funds paid by a Republican action committee of which he was chairman. According to the documents, the support included paying the salaries and travel expenses of political consultants who had devoted much time to helping Mr Gingrich.

The commission does not say that the Speaker benefited illegally, but argues that at the time the GOP (Republican) Action Committee, or Gopac, was barred from such activity as it did not register as a federal political action committee until 1991. Yesterday the action committee was seeking to dismiss the suit.

Court papers quote Gopac as saying that Mr Gingrich's re-election was "probably the single highest priority we've got in dollars".

The timing of the action is designed to put pressure on Republicans in the House ethics committees, currently deadlocked over the scope of a separate inquiry into Democratic allegations that Mr Gingrich created legislative favours for donors.

# Romanov prince demands right to be at tsar's reburial

BY QUENTIN LETTS

A SENIOR Romanov has complained that he and other members of the former Russian imperial family have not been invited to the reburial of Nicholas II, last Tsar of All the Russias.

Prince Nicholas Romanov, disputed head of the family, said it was "time to bury the past and demanded that descendants of the tsar should be involved in next year's ceremony in St Petersburg.

The tsar, murdered by Bolsheviks in July 1918, will be reburied in the Peter and Paul Cathedral in a service planned for February 25. Prince Nicholas, 73, said he was deeply offended that the family had

neither been invited nor consulted about the rites to be used. "We should be given the possibility to express our desires. Many members of the family have very precise opinions about the rite of the funerals," he told a sympathetic audience in New York.

"May the funerals of the last tsar, his family and the faithful who served him to the last become a sign of the rebirth of Russia."

Prince Nicholas, a farmer from Switzerland, said that the funeral "will symbolise that a page of Russian history has finally been turned, a page dripping with blood". He has communicated with President

Yeltsin and the Mayor of St Petersburg about the reburial.

The identification of the tsar's bones was confirmed by DNA tests using tissue from the Duke of Edinburgh, a kinsman. The tsar's bones will be reburied with those of Tsarina Alexandra, three of their children and four servants who were all killed at Yekaterinburg in 1918, reputedly at Lenin's order.

Prince Nicholas said that it was right that the servants should be buried alongside their masters. "They have been lying together for 75 years. Leave them as they are. They were the only ones who never betrayed the tsar."

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GORDON MILNE

BANKS are making fewer mistakes — but a quarter of customers still find errors in their current account, according to a

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# Model's murder stirs fear of serial killer

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# US scientists race to mount deadly laser in jumbo jet

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

RIVAL scientists in America, bringing the fantasies of Hollywood a step closer to reality, are competing to create a high-energy laser with lethal beams that could bring down enemy missiles hundreds of miles away.

The 100,000lb laser, carried inside a Boeing 747, would destroy its targets within three seconds, causing warheads and missile wreckage to scatter over their launch sites.

Under an ambitious \$5 billion (£3.22 billion) research programme for the United States Air Force, scores of physicists, chemists, computer scientists and engineers from Rockwell International Corporation and Hughes Aircraft Company are competing against groups from Boeing, Lockheed and TRW Incorporated to win the contract in 1997.

The culmination of almost three decades of classified

military research into high-powered lasers and advanced optics, the beam would be guided by a computer-controlled mirror able to alter its shape thousands of times a second to counter any atmospheric distortion between the laser and its target.

The weapon, known as the airborne laser, would guzzle hundreds of pounds of household chemicals per second and produce the equivalent power of 20,000 100-watt light bulbs.

Large storage tanks aboard the jumbo jet would carry enough juice for 40 laser blasts — 30,000lb of chemicals, including hydrogen peroxide, potassium hydroxide and chlorine. The reaction of the chemicals, creating high-energy oxygen, would then be fed at supersonic speed into a rocket chamber where iodine would be added before resulting in the infra-red beam.

The light would then be

driven through a shaft to the nose of the 747, where a swivelling turret, or beam director, would be mounted to scan the horizon for missile launches.

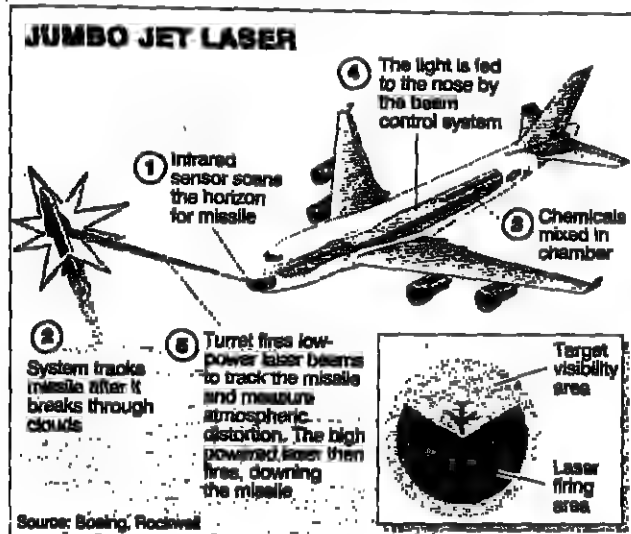
Once the enemy warhead was detected, the director would shoot a low-powered laser to track its progress before sending a signal to the larger Chemical Oxygen Iodine Laser, COIL.

Pentagon officials recognise that the history of such weaponry has been far from happy. Under President Reagan, military planners faced the embarrassing failure of the much vaunted "Star Wars" programme, a laser blanket in space to protect the United States from attack.

This time, defence planners insist, the technology is available to create successfully the airborne laser. Memories of Iraq's Scud attack against an American barracks during the Gulf War, which killed more than two dozen soldiers, have made the Pentagon even more insistent that the programme will work.

Lasers are cheaper than anti-missile weapons and the US Air Force is hoping to build seven of the newly equipped jets under the programme. The first demonstrator would be ready for testing by 2001. "If we succeed, this opens up a whole new direction for military weaponry," said Barry Waldman, vice-president of Rockwell and the head of the company's laser research.

□ Helsinki: Russia is to supply Finland with air defence systems to reduce part of its \$1.3 billion debt. (AP)



Donna Rice Hughes as she is today, campaigning in Washington to curb pornography on the Internet

## Hart belle sounds cyberporn alarm

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

DONNA RICE, the sultry Florida model whose swimsuit pose once wrecked a presidential campaign, is back in American public life. Eight years after she draped herself over Gary Hart on board his motor yacht, *Monkey Business*, Miss Rice is working as a conservative lobbyist. She is campaigning against smut.

The *Monkey Business* pose, linked to disclosures that she spent a night at his house, ruined Mr Hart's bid for the White House. Miss Rice went into hiding but has now emerged as a campaigner against Internet pornography, saying she wants to put her notoriety to good use. In a slow, southern accent, she

says she follows "the three is — faith, family and friends".

Miss Rice, 37, today prefers to be called Donna Rice Hughes, incorporating the surname of her new husband, a businessman. She has been appointed communications director of Enough, a pressure group which fights cyberporn, or obscenity on the Internet.

"After the scandal hit eight years ago I resolved to see all the devastation in my own life used in a positive way," she said. "I wanted it used for something bigger than me. I knew it would be a long way off." She turned down offers worth "millions of dollars" for her version of the Hart scandal. "I decided not to feather

my own nest. I made mistakes but I relied on faith and hope. It was a long road."

Legislators must soon reach a decision on how to police the Internet, which is currently untamed territory for libel and pornography. Some of the material published is so strong, Miss Rice said, that *Penthouse* and *Hustler* magazines "look like Donald Duck" by comparison. Her group is lobbying for a Bill to restrict the availability of such fare.

Miss Rice has visited politicians and opinion makers to show them examples of hardcore pornography available to Internet users. "Even the most hardened politicians and journalists just about lose

their lunch when they see this stuff," she said. "It is fairly horrible and beyond what most people comprehend. I try not to look too closely."

Enough is Enough, less extreme than some right-wing lobby groups, is backed by computer companies which fear aggressive state policing of the Internet. Miss Rice has been praised for her grasp of politics. Congress is expected to legislate on cyberporn in the next month.

"I am Donna Rice and I'll always be Donna Rice, but I have been living with the scandal for eight years now," she said. "I made mistakes and got off on the wrong track in my 20s, and I paid for it dearly. It woke me up."



Donna Rice during the Gary Hart scandal

## Model's murder stirs fears of serial killer

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

THE death of a Los Angeles model, Linda Sobek, 27, has reopened murder investigations as far away as Ohio, as fears mount that she may have been the victim of a serial killer.

Charles Rathbun, 38, a freelance photographer, was charged this week with her murder, after leading police to a shallow grave containing her remains in mountains east of Los Angeles.

The county sheriff this week said that Mr Rathbun had been linked to the unsolved death of another model in the Los Angeles area, Kimberly Pandelios, in 1992, whose body was found yards away from the Sobek remains. He was

also a suspect in the murder last year in Ohio of Stephanie Hummer, 18, a first-year university student, police said.

"We're getting calls from people all over the country who have cases where they see similarities," Sheriff Sherman Block told a press conference.

Mr Rathbun, who has pleaded not guilty to Ms Sobek's murder, claims he ran over her and buried her body because he panicked. He met both models at the same hamburger restaurant, police said. The women left with him for what they thought was a photo assignment for *Auto Week*. The magazine said this week that it never uses models in its photographs of cars.

## Korean bribes scandal widens

BY CATHERINE LEE IN SEOUL AND DAVID WATTS

SOUTH Korean prosecutors yesterday sought to prevent a former president from leaving the country and charged a leading businessman in a slush funds scandal that threatened to engulf the political elite.

The affair calls into question the whole economic structure of South Korean politics, in which the leaders of the big *chaebol*, or business conglomerates, have funded politicians who, until recently, were former army officers.

Former President Roh Tae Woo, who is in jail charged with operating a political slush fund of more than \$400 million, claims that President Kim Young Sam received money from the fund.

Yesterday Chun Doo Hwan, another former president, was ordered not to leave the country, while prosecutors arrested Chung Tae Soo, chairman of the Hanbo group. Mr Chung was charged with helping Mr Roh switch about \$50 million from hidden accounts into legal accounts between September and October 1993. Mr Chung was the first tycoon to be arrested in the scandal, but prosecutors reportedly are considering charging heads of 24 conglomerates, including the top four business groups, with bribery.

Speculation that Kim Woo Choong, the Daewoo group chairman, could be next in line sent shares in its companies tumbling. The arrest warrant for Mr Roh said Mr Kim was suspected of offering more than \$20 million in return for favours over lucrative building projects.

Mr Roh was arrested on November 16. The retired general confessed to gathering \$424 million in slush funds during his presidency.

Yesterday Mr Roh left the Seoul detention centre to be interrogated by prosecutors. They have questioned nearly 40 heads or senior executives of conglomerates.

Attempting to put some distance between himself and the scandal, President Kim said yesterday that corruption was the main obstacle to South Korea becoming a world-class economic power and urged businesses to end their questionable links with politics.

"Now is the time to eradicate the deep-rooted evil practice," Mr Kim said in a speech marking Trade Day, which traditionally celebrates South Korea's dramatic economic growth.

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# Leakey-led alliance aims to topple Moi

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

KENYA'S leading opposition parties formed an alliance yesterday under the conservationist, Richard Leakey, to remove President Moi in the next general election.

The alliance, the brainchild of Dr Leakey and associates in his Safina Party, is likely to send shudders through the ruling Kenya African National Union because it is the first multiracial challenge to the President's authority.

If it holds, the alliance, which unifies the Kikuyu-dominated Democratic Party, the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Asili (a Luo and Luhya grouping), the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Kenya (another Kikuyu and Luo party), and Safina, will pose the greatest threat to President Moi since he came to power in 1979.

Opposition groups fragmented along tribal lines in

the run-up to the 1992 elections, Kenya's first multiparty polls under Mr Moi, which allowed him to run away with a majority in parliament and thus take the presidency with 1.82 million votes when a total of 3.32 million were cast for his opponents.

Dr Leakey has been a central player in forming the alliance against Kanu. He began the task when he left Kenya's Wildlife Services after coming under "unacceptable" political pressure for blocking a series of attempts by government figures to "grab" parts of national parks and reserves for themselves.

"The Opposition alliance is a coalition of parties to establish a new democratic order that will ensure good governance, social justice, human rights and socio-economic prosperity for all Kenyans," an alliance statement said.

"The Alliance will mobilise all resources necessary for removing the Kanu party from power, eliminating corruption and tribalism, bringing an end to political persecution and murders and establishing a government of national reconciliation and reconstruction."

The Government, without explanation, has refused to register Dr Leakey's own party. But the grouping of the main parties already in parliament, and an agreement among all the important opposition leaders that they will field a single candidate against President Moi in the elections, expected next year, puts Dr Leakey at the centre of Kenya's political life.

"We made painful mistakes by not sticking together in 1992. We must not do the same at the next election," Martin Shikuku, general secretary of the Forum-Asili grouping, said.

Having forged the alliance, which he will serve as its general secretary, Dr Leakey's next aim is to reform Kenya's constitution and try to break the Government's monopoly hold on the mass media.

"Without such minimum reforms, the next polls will not be fair," he said.

Gaborone: President Masire of Botswana will call a summit of southern African leaders to discuss sanctions against Nigeria over the hanging of nine rights activists, Bergsman Sentile, the presidential secretary, said yesterday. A diplomatic source said the summit was expected to be held in December 11. (Reuters)

## South Africa accused of racism over funding

Johannesburg: Plans by the Government here to favour the funding of medical universities with higher proportions of black and Afrikaans-speaking students were condemned yesterday as a racist throwback (Inigo Gilmore writes).

The controversial move follows a rash of reports about the country's medical brain drain and efforts to lure doctors from other countries, including Cuba, to meet the shortfall. Since the beginning of last year more than 3,000

certificates, enabling doctors to practice in another country, have been issued.

"The proposals, if implemented, would amount to racism and social engineering of the most blatant kind, last seen in South Africa during the heyday of apartheid," said Tony Leon, leader of the liberal Democratic Party, traditionally a mouthpiece for English South Africans. "The real answer... is to arrest the slide towards anarchy, which is the root cause of professional leaving."



Hong Kong police surround a cardboard image of Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, displayed yesterday by a group of seven people as they called at the Xinhua News Agency to protest at Peking's arrest of Wei Jingsheng, the pro-democracy dissident

## Egyptians angered by alleged poll fraud

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

PUBLIC anger at government vote-rigging in the first Egyptian election to be contested by all opposition parties since 1987 grew yesterday. Results showed a predictably commanding win in many of the 444 parliamentary seats for the ruling National Democratic Party, led by President Mubarak.

"A black day for democracy. Blatant rigging and open government thuggery," read the headline in the liberal opposition paper *Al-Ahram*, as confrontations between police and opposition supporters continued in at least three Cairo constituencies over electoral abuses by the NDP.

Foreign election monitors were barred from Wednesday's poll on government orders, but Western diplomats said yesterday that there were well-substantiated claims of electoral malpractice and thuggery by the NDP.

"I hope we are not going to see the start of an Algeria syndrome," said an envoy, recalling how the cancellation of pro-Islamic votes in the December 1991 poll sparked a civil war there.

The Egyptian Government has displayed concern verging on panic at a potentially strong showing by the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and other pro-Islamic candidates.

Final results will not be announced until after a second round next Wednesday, in legislative districts where first returns did not show a clear majority.

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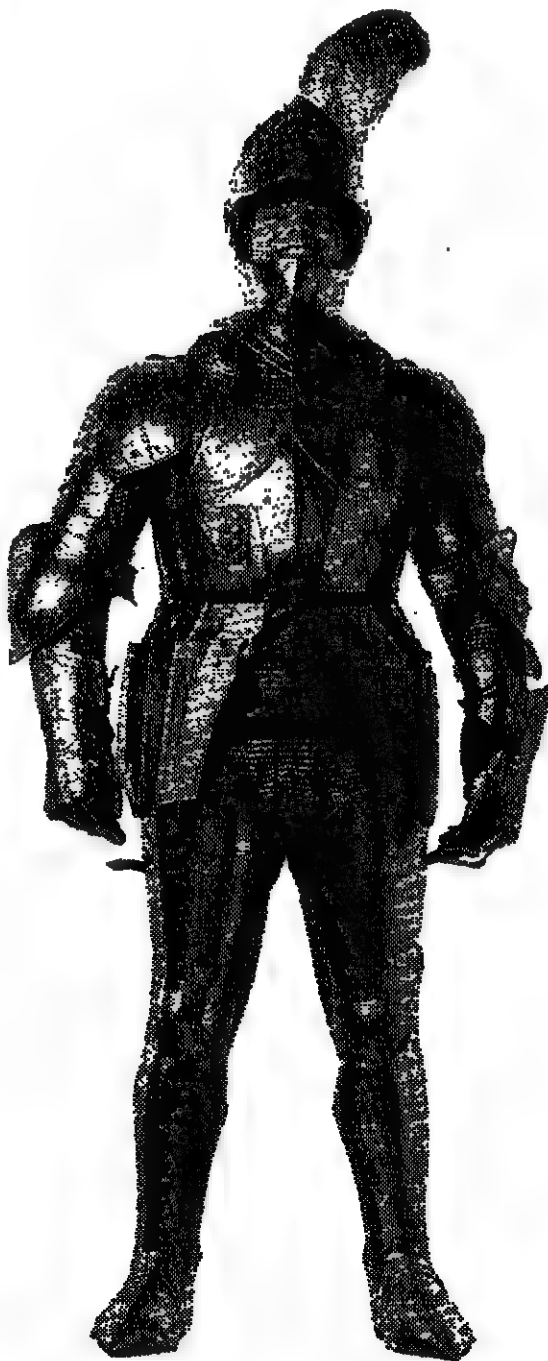
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## Quakers fight to keep 'Eton of the Middle East'

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ONE of the most famous British schools overseas, which for more than a century has educated the sons of Kings, Presidents and Prime Ministers in the Middle East, will be removed from British control unless a Beirut court ruling can be reversed.

Brummana High School in Lebanon, founded by Quakers in 1876, survived 15 years of civil war during which all British staff were forced to leave. But after a surprise judgment preventing the London-based Quaker Peace and Service from regaining control, there are fears that it may be run down or sold by a small group of former pupils.

The school site, on the side of the mountains overlooking Beirut, is now one of the most valuable in Lebanon. Brummana, a largely Christian town, has boomed as the reconstruction of the country gathers pace. The property, still legally registered to the Quakers and accountable to the British Charity Commissioners, is estimated to be worth more than £64 million.

The dispute over its ownership has caused uproar throughout the Middle East. The school, with more than 900 pupils and provision for boarding, has long been the most famous British institution in the region.

The dispute is being portrayed by nationalists in Lebanon as an attempt by London to reimpose "colonial" conditions on the Eton of the Middle East. But former pupils, parents and local politicians

believe that, if the Quakers are refused the right to resume their work at Brummana, the credibility of Lebanon's appeal to foreign investors to return will be undermined.

As the war worsened, the Quakers attempted to keep Brummana running normally. But overseas students were unable to attend and, fearing kidnap, British staff left.

In 1987 the school was temporarily entrusted to a seven-man committee of local old boys. They kept it open but two left the committee, a third died and the remaining members did not adhere to its constitution.

After the war ended, parents and old boys began a campaign to bring back the Quakers. They complained that the school had no headmaster, no proper management and that standards were declining rapidly. Brummana is now reported to be "bottom of the second division" in the informal rating of the American University of Beirut.

The Quakers will not give details of the dispute, which they have been attempting since 1992 to settle by quiet diplomacy. They have sent seven missions to Lebanon, but were so alarmed by developments that this summer they went to court. Against all expectations, the judge ruled in favour of the committee.

The Quakers appointed a new headmaster and school manager who arrived in the summer, but were warned that guards would prevent them from entering the school.



Brummana school in Lebanon, taken over by old boys

## UN sanctions blamed for children's deaths

UNITED NATIONS sanctions imposed on Iraq after the Gulf War may have been responsible for more than 560,000 deaths among children, a study supported by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN suggests (Nigel Hawkes writes).

In August, Dr Mary Smith Fawzi and Sarah Zaidi from Harvard School of Public Health in Boston carried out a survey in 25 Baghdad neighbourhoods. They report in *The Lancet* that infant mortality has doubled since the beginning of sanctions, and increased fivefold in the under-fives. Stunted growth has doubled and children who were wasted had increased fourfold, from three to 12 per cent. The figure of 560,000 deaths, they say, is a minimum an underestimate.

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Olga Polizzi, mistress of the Forte style, rejects the Granada takeover bid

## 'No one does bedrooms and bathrooms better than us'

Last Sunday, the clan Forte foregathered. It was Lord Forte's 87th birthday, an occasion none of them would miss: his six children, their five spouses, the 13 grandchildren. Lady Forte served the *arancini*, the grandchildren brought in the cake, the eldest grandchild proposed a toast.

Naturally, the conversation at the adults' table was about the £3.4 billion hostile bid for the Forte group from Granada.

To render the patriarch even fitter for the fight, his eldest daughter, Olga, gave him a "Sport Rider" exerciser which she demonstrates for me with vigorous rowing movements. The idea of Lord Forte using it at 87 is almost as pleasing as the Princess Royal's line about the Queen Mother ice-skating.

The striking Olga Polizzi, of the brilliant smile and impeccable chic, famous in gossip columns as the woman for whom Norman Lamont once sustained a black eye, is one of the hardest-working women I know. She tends to arrive at social occasions just in time: "I'm always the one who hasn't had time to change, or have my hair done."

What has occupied her for 15 years is the transforming of the Forte group's 97,000 rooms — 1,500 Post House rooms in the last two years alone — into things of beauty. You have only to recall what British hotels used to be like to appreciate what has been done. The country-house hotel has raised requirements of roaring fires, luxurious chintzes. "So we have had a lot of work to do. Because we have kept buying more hotels it's taken a long time to catch up," she says. "But now I don't think anyone can do bedrooms and bathrooms better than we can. Comfortable beds, a bright bathroom where you can actually see yourself — and all at a reasonable cost, every penny is calculated. I hate spending money, I would rather be making it. We may be offered tiles at £10 a metre and

we beat them down another 50p. I've got quite tough."

One journalist who referred to "Rocco's forceful elder sister" got a card from Olga saying "Forceful perhaps: elder, no". Rocco is 50: Olga next in line. She and her sisters — Louise, Irene, Giancarla, Portia — went to St Mary's, Ascot, where Olga was a contemporary of Sarah Hogg.

She met her first husband while still at school: they married in 1968 and lived in

men I've ever met". She was introduced to William, peripatetic writer and journalist, by Sir Charles Powell, whose Italian wife Carla (invariably described as "effervescent") is an old friend.

"William shows no interest whatever in any of our businesses," she says resignedly. "The only excitement he's ever shown was when he said: do you realise you've got a hotel in Rwanda?" On this cue, William walked into the Polizzi parlour and draped himself languidly across a sofa: he had come straight from Sarajevo.

Their mews house near Hyde Park epitomises her taste: it has the feel of a comfortable country house with eccentric touches, and a conservatory that accommodates three dinner tables. A framed letter from daughter Charlie (now at Edinburgh University), written when she was nine, reads: "Dear Mum, thank you for not going out to dinner as often as you normally do."

Having hung myself into a Forte hotel late at night on some assignment, I once told Mrs Polizzi how much I appreciated the Palace, at Paignton, once dull and old-fashioned and now welcoming with open fire, glass of sherry on the reception desk, and — essential to me — large desk in a spacious bedroom soothingly decorated in Colefax and Fowler. She was relieved; she said people usually saved up their grumbles for her.

"We do think hard all the time, to be ahead of the game. Even in our Travelodges, you get a spotless room freshly painted twice a year, television and nice bathroom and, at about £30 a night for a family of four, fantastic value."

In 1989, Margaret Thatcher asked Mrs Polizzi to do up No 10. "It hadn't been done since Mr Heath, who put lots of silk on the walls. Mrs Thatcher had her own strong idea of what she wanted, and we

worked at night to get it done. She wanted a feeling of lightness, but also practicality, so we did the main rooms with white and gold leaf, everything painted so that it could be easily washed down."

And Lady T was among the glitterati at the party when Forte reopened the Hotel Eden, in Rome, furnished by Olga in 1994.

This is one of Forte's trophy hotels, along with the Bristol in Warsaw, the Ritz in Ma-

**'My father appreciates anyone who works hard and does their duty and is loyal'**

drid, and London's Waldorf, formerly such a dim place, now utterly transformed and usually full and able to double its rates. One of her favourite hotels in the world — and mine — is the Shelbourne in Dublin: genuinely the centre of the life of the city. People of all kinds flock there from morning till night and the buzz of blarney is unique: Olga has to have the lounge reupholstered every six months.

One's so careful, and always wondering, does the decor make a difference? (Answer: yes.) "But a good manager is vital. We spend £10 million a year on training. The whole perception of catering as a profession has changed: it's not just for your dumb son. My very clever daughter Alex, with her English degree from Oxford,

has gone into it." Alex is a manager at Marco Pierre White's Criterion Brasserie in Piccadilly Circus.

The hotel industry was in the doldrums after the catastrophic Gulf War year, when many hotels closed down. Last year, the upturn started. "And next year," Olga says, "should be excellent."

Hence the Granada bid. Olga first heard about it at 7.30am, from a brother-in-law in the City. She could not believe it at first: "It seemed impossible that Granada had any synergy with Forte."

Since then it has been meetings, meetings. Sir Rocco is field-marshalising the campaign: "We have to persuade the shareholders that it's worth their while to stay with us. Since Rocco became chairman in '92, we have reorganised and rebranded. We've got rid of businesses which didn't fit in, like Gardner Merchant. The Meridian group has just turned round and we're now in 60 countries — and building in Bali and Jedda and Abu Dhabi."

All of which sounds extremely appealing to a predator. "But Granada has no international experience. We've bought a few small motorway hotels from them — and they've gone up 70 per cent. It's not an easy business," she says. "Whatever Mr Gerry Robinson may suppose, Rocco was born and bred in this business. He has put together a team of managers all over the world that no hotel group could match."

Having started 60 years ago with a milk bar in Regent Street, Charles Forte bought his first hotel, the Waldorf, in 1958. And it was in the Palm Court of the Waldorf that the Shawcrosses held their spectacular wedding party, with proper 1940s-style dancing. "We'll have another party," she says. "If we win this. And if they lose? I refuse to believe it could happen. I certainly wouldn't work as hard for any other company, ever."

### THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Rome and Amsterdam, where he ran Alitalia. "We had a first child who died, and then two daughters, and then we didn't get on very well." Olga was living in London when he died in a car crash in Italy in 1980. Her father invited her to use her art-school training at Forte, to jettison the bland uniformity of the typical Forte hotel room and inject her own style.

"My father appreciates anyone who works hard and does their duty and is loyal, and he is quite tough on anybody who doesn't or isn't." She has said that she would never dare wear jeans in front of him.

Two years ago, Olga — still "Mrs Polizzi" in the office — became the third of William Shawcross's dark and beautiful wives, so she acquired an interesting father-in-law as well — Lord Shawcross, now 93, "one of the most brilliant



Lord Forte's daughter, Olga, has spent 15 years restyling the group's 97,000 hotel rooms

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# Will the real Hillary Clinton stand up?



The changing face of Hillary: her look as the Princess of Wales, an Iron Lady Mrs T...

Hillary Clinton is the first to admit that she is like one of those psychologists' ink blots in which everyone can find whatever they are looking for. "I am a Korschach test," she once confessed in a candid moment.

Feisty feminist who hasn't the time to dawdle at home baking cookies? You got it. Earth mother who publishes her own cookie recipe? That too. Sharon Stone-style when posing for *Vanity Fair*? Why not? What about scheming Lady Macbeth in an Alice band? It was her trademark. Sassy, metropolitan Tina Brown-lookalike in a Calvin Klein suit? Done that. Done the Mrs T Iron Lady look and the Barbara Taylor Bradford heroine in soft pink, too. Devoted mother and moist-eyed, stand-by-your-man wife? Absolutely.

To meet the Queen this week, Hillary Clinton chose wraparound Princess Royal hair coupled with a tweed suit cut from what looked like a blue, red and green picnic blanket, possibly Washington's idea of something sedate, regal and very British. Like Woody Allen's Zelig, she melts effortlessly into any canvas.

Gather up a collection of photographs of Hillary all taken within the space of a few months, and they look like police files of a clever bandit, disguising her appearance after every heist to keep the cops off her scent.

Like one of those magicians who performs startling card

**'She's very bright, focused, not a hair out of place'**

tricks right under your nose, the Houdini First Lady even managed this week at her cosy coffee morning with "prominent" British women.

The women were summoned, at short notice, to the US Ambassador's residence on Wednesday morning after receiving calls from embassy officials asking if they could meet Mrs Clinton for coffee and "woman talk". Yes, and

I'm the Queen of Spain, many of the women thought. Having found the invites were genuine, of course they went. But they came away with such different impressions of the woman hailed as a "bitch" by Newt Gingrich's mum and "a beautiful woman" by Castro that it is hard to know if they were at the same gathering.

"I got the impression," says Sue MacGregor, presenter of BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, "that she's a thoroughbred filly who's been reined back to trotting round the paddock on a short rope. She's very bright, very focused, and not a piece of hair, a strand of wool, a word was out of place. I get the impression that, in election year, she's had to soften a little, but you feel she wants to break free. She spoke briefly about the backlash in women's opportunities in the US, and you couldn't help feeling it may be applied to her."

"I thought she was terrific," says Judith Newman, a literature professor from Newcastle University who chairs the British Association for American Studies. "It was a very productive and interesting discussion. I know this sounds earnest."

Surely the *Independent's*

**Feisty feminist or Stepford wife? Joe Joseph reports on the constantly changing face of the First Lady**



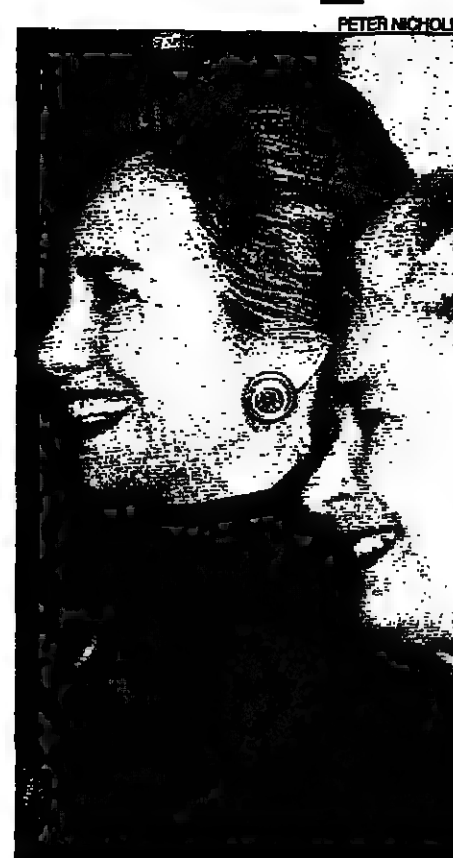
... a devoted mother and stand-by-your-man wife ...

Polly Toynbee can't have been at the same meeting? "The men with the mind machines have captured her," she wailed yesterday, "sucked the life out of her, fashioned her into the only acceptable model — a fully-fledged Stepford wife."

But tell us about her demeanour, Polly? How does she sit? "Stiffly, like a mannequin, her head nodding up and

down mechanically, her expression glazed, half-smiling, hardly changing, her views anodyne, her words as carefully manicured as the lawns outside the window."

Lola Babboush, the American deputy editor of *Auburn Waugh's Literary Review*, was startled but "thrilled and honoured" to be invited, and jiggled for joy around the



... a Barbara Taylor Bradford heroine and, this week with the Queen, Princess Royal

Academy Club. When the phone call came through, however, the cynical Bron was convinced it was a hoax. Lola gushed: "I'm a fan of Mrs Clinton. Polly Toynbee thinks she's been turned into a Stepford wife, but it was just a coffee morning."

Gail Rebuck, millionairess and chairwoman of the publishers Random House, says she "found her enormously impressive. She was professional, relaxed, intelligent, stimulating and charming."

Georgina Henry, *The Guardian's* deputy editor, sat up when Hillary told her guests that she wanted to "trade thoughts or ideas you might have about common interests, particularly among women".

So was she enlightening? Actually, says Henry, "she listened more than she spoke". Most tellingly, Henry recalls, Hillary made the searing observation that it was both "the best and the worst" of times to be a woman.

Bill Clinton smoked but did not inhale. At the coffee morning it seems that Hillary spoke but did not exhale anything worth hearing.

When she discussed the problem of single mothers, and told her audience that

"whether you like it or not, children of lone parents don't do as well in school, they get in trouble with the law ... it's a problem feminists are going to have to confront", feminists nodded wisely at this pragmatic voice of reason. When Hillary added that "divorce should be made harder", oth-

**'They've sucked the life out of her. She's a Stepford wife'**

ers could choke on their coffee and wonder if she had joined the American Right.

Having once stood defiantly beside her husband and declared, "If you vote for him, you get me", having modelled herself on Eleanor Roosevelt — even down to penning a newspaper column — Hillary Clinton has become Washington's Princess Di: misunderstood by the press; willing to change her hairstyle to get a

headline; she has had close and controversial relationships with men that she feels the press misinterprets; and her husband confesses embarrassing sexual liaisons on prime-time television. Now she even dresses like British royalty, though, unlike Di, she may not have the hips for Versace.

Sue Slipman, director of the National Training and Enterprise Council and, until recently, leader of the National Council of One-Parent Families, found Hillary Clinton "rather contained, very cool. I had no sense of her as a person. She knew what to say so as not to cause headlines."

Especially when everyone thinks that you are the cause of half that trouble. It is open season on Hillary Clinton in America. To give Hillary's PR handlers an inkling of how unsuccessful a job they were doing, *American Right*, a marketing magazine, recently reported a joke that was doing the rounds: Bill Clinton is stepping off Air Force One with a pig under his arm. "What's gonna do with the pig, Bill?" a bystander asks. "I got it for Hillary," says Clinton. "Good trade," snaps the bystander.

Hillary has been struggling to reinvent herself ever since.

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# The low road to devolution

Magnus Linklater on Michael Forsyth's half-hearted proposals

Symbolism was the order of the day in Scotland yesterday — St Andrew's Day. Symbolically, the declaration of a new Scottish Parliament was read out at the Mercat Cross in Edinburgh's High Street, just opposite the great hall where the last one voted itself out of existence 288 years ago. Symbolically, the plans were presented at a meeting held in the Assembly Hall on the Mound, where Margaret Thatcher, staunchest opponent of devolution, once famously preached about Conservative values to the elders of the Scottish Kirk. Symbolically, speaker after speaker lined up to denounce her disciple, the Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael Forsyth. And symbolically, Mr Forsyth chose the same day to announce his own ideas and steal much of the lime-light. I suspect the headlines this morning are mainly about him and not them.

In some ways, this is not surprising. What Mr Forsyth has brought forth over the past two days represents a significant constitutional concession for a Government hitherto immune to pressures for change. By outlining plans which will bring senior ministers north of the border to debate Scottish legislation in Scotland, he is, as he says, bringing Parliament to the people. Westminster will still, inevitably, have the last word and retain the veto, but on ten occasions next year, ministers up to and including the Prime Minister will be flying up to places like Aberdeen and Oban to debate Scottish matters. Standing Orders will be changed so that even the Prime Minister will be required to appear before the Scottish Grand Committee to face a majority of truculent Labour MPs. At the very least there will be more to write about.

Whether this will set the heather alight is another matter. The reforms have come too late, they are not substantial enough to catch the imagination, and they have been left open to easy attack. "Weasel phrases" when it makes sense to do so, slipped in by Mr Forsyth to leave ministers the final decision about which Bills come north, means that controversial legislation such as the nursery voucher scheme, which Labour opposes, probably won't be debated.

Would this reform, have prevented the poll tax from being introduced in Scotland? Probably not. And it was perhaps unfortunate that the first example that Mr Forsyth cited of a Bill that would be dealt with in this way was the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill — which is not, thus far, a matter of keen dispute.

Nevertheless, what is being proposed here is not far short of what Sir Alec Douglas-Home was exploring at the request of Edward Heath in 1970. If John Major had taken the bold step of suggesting this five years ago, it might have had a significant impact. As it is, the caravan has moved on, and the constitutional conven-

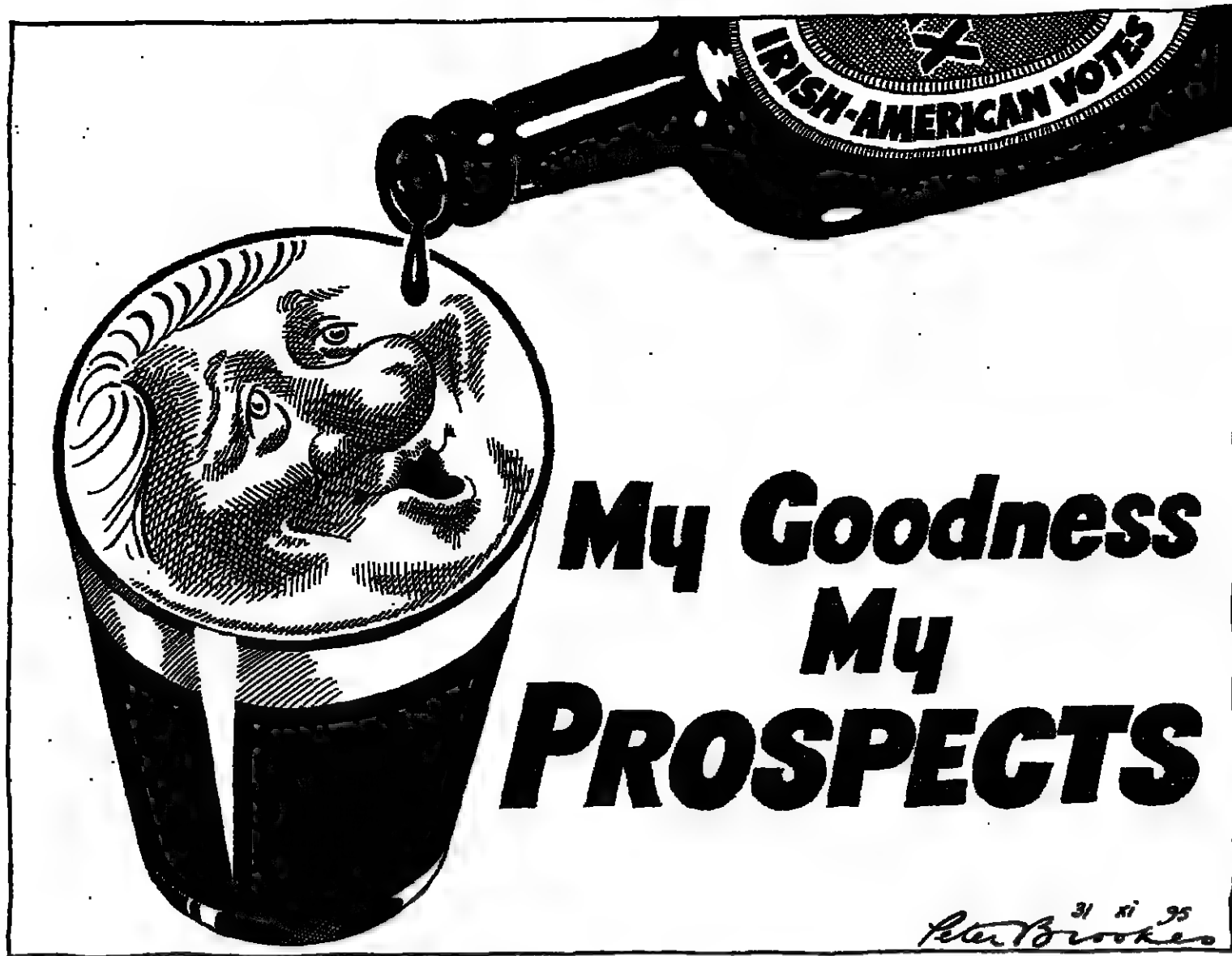
tion, with its own well advanced plans for a parliament with tax-raising powers, has occupied centre stage.

What may prove to be far more interesting are the local government reforms which Mr Forsyth announced last night in a speech at Strathclyde University, a platform hitherto reserved for Labour politicians. What he has promised to do is introduce another form of devolution — the shifting of power from the Scottish Office down to local authorities. By inviting Scottish councils to submit a shopping-list of devolutionary proposals, and then announcing that he will adopt more than half of them, he has taken some of the wind from their sails. Last night he unveiled a lengthy list of concessions which he proposes to devolve, ranging from the fairly absurd, such as decisions on petting crossings, to the potentially far-reaching, such as decisions on trunk-road building.

The Treasury has tied his hands on larger changes, such as removing the right to cap spending. But he has been able to agree to a form of "block grant" to local government, leaving its decisions to the councils themselves. This does raise the question of why he feels unable to go the last mile, and do the same for a Scottish assembly, but it will certainly give Labour something to think about — provided he can deliver. He has left himself room to manoeuvre by stating that he has not made a final decision on any of them. He proposes to consult on the measures "with a view to devolution". However, at a news conference yesterday he said that he had "pretty well decided" to make the changes.

Early indications are that the opposition in Scotland will concentrate on the minimal change to allow councils to introduce their own by-laws on drinking in the street. Will the nation thrill to the knowledge that "public path creation orders" will be delegated to local councils? Perhaps not, but Mr Forsyth now has one of those fashionable "win-track" policies. Armed with these new proposals he will lead a relentless attack on the "tartan tax" which he says a Scottish parliament would impose. Much as the Opposition maintains that this may never be introduced, there is evidence that talk of it is beginning to have an effect. Mr Forsyth believes he can turn Scottish opinion and win back the political argument against a full Scottish parliament.

His tactics have been bold, but I do not think the substance is enough. Reforms of this order, which may prove more significant than they appear at first sight, will take time to work through, time to make an impact, and time to be appreciated by voters. Mr Forsyth has proved that he has effrontery, imagination and a radical bent, but the one thing he does not now have is time.



## China's handover fist

Peking has begun dismantling human rights in Hong Kong already

When I saw a substantial headline in the *Herald-Tribune* reading "Censure of China by UN is urged", I cannot say that I was too busy with rage and sorrow.

In the first place, there is not the smallest possibility of any kind of censure of China, now or ever. In the second place, if such a miracle did come to pass, nobody would or could do anything further at all about it. In the third place, it would be forgotten by everybody approximately a quarter of an hour after it happened. In the fourth place, nobody but me even noticed the headline. In the fifth place, yes, I am going to write about China and its evil once again.

Step forward Wei Jingsheng. Ah, but Wei Jingsheng cannot step forward, or backward, or indeed in any direction, because he is chained with irons in one of the many dungeons of China, in which he has been incarcerated for some 20 months so far, with a death sentence hanging over him throughout.

I shall come back to Wei Jingsheng, but first I must point out a somewhat bizarre aspect of China's rule. As we know, there is nothing in China that could be seriously called a system of law. To start with, God alone knows how many millions — yes, millions — are suffering forced labour, in the vastness of the Chinese interior, and any ordinary Chinese citizen, living peacefully in Peking, and doing no wrong, can be snatched from his own doorstep, never to be seen again. And yet in this Stalinist world (remember, Mao Tse-tung not only murdered more than Stalin, but was proud of his murders and boasted of them), China today is called "socialist". Oh, I can hear the very whirrings as Keir Hardie turns, groaning, in his grave. But you must agree that the Chinese rulers — who could call themselves angels if they felt like it — have a strange vision of socialism. Moreover, I cannot remember seeing or hearing the word "socialism" even a few very years ago. Do the Chinese authorities believe that a new name for their tyranny will make it smell sweeter? And while I am on the subject, can anyone tell me whether there are still Peking-lovers from other lands (ours, for instance) who admire the wonderful democratic system of communist China as they admired the wonderful democratic system of the

Soviet Union until it collapsed? But I am wandering; my excuse is that Wei Jingsheng has got plenty of time on his hands, unless, of course, the executioner has arrived.

Once again, I shake my head in wonder, when I hear or read about the words that tyrannies employ when they are doing great evil. Take the very first handful of lunacy: "Wei Jingsheng has been charged with attempting to overthrow the Government".

I pause to let you savour those words. Mark: there is no suggestion that Wei Jingsheng has a secret army, his men trained to burst out of their lairs the moment Wei Jingsheng blows the whistle. Nor, for that matter, is the whole Chinese empire tottering to its fall, so that one push from Wei Jingsheng will bring it down for good. But that was only the beginning: here is an official statement of the situation. "An investigation by Peking's municipal security department showed that Wei had conducted activities in an attempt to overthrow the Government. His actions were in violation of the criminal law and constituted crimes."

But we are forgetful, are we not? Wei Jingsheng's name should not have been thought new. Indeed, if we have forgotten it, we should be ashamed of ourselves, because when Wei Jingsheng was arrested for attempting to overthrow the Government, he was only a few months short of the end of a fifteen-year sentence, which he had been given in 1979 for taking part in the Democracy Wall movement.

You gasp? I'm not surprised. Fifteen years behind bars (and there is no such thing as remission for such prisoners), and the minute he sees freedom looming he is back in prison, and this time under the shadow of the gallows. I ask again, getting no answer from that unanswerable question: how do men and women in those conditions, with no hope of succour, survive? What steel rod runs

through their bodies, their heads, their hands? Ah, and their souls?

Meanwhile, the Chinese Government (you know, the one Wei Jingsheng is going to overthrow), has started to bluster — a good sign that we in freedom are making a dent at least in their wall of cruelty. Indeed, they are bringing out their most threadbare and shifty excuse for their swiftness: we are told not to start "meddling in China's internal affairs".

Moreover, they are now saying that the case of Wei Jingsheng "is not a human rights case", and there is more and madder to come. Hark to the official Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Shen Guofang:

I think our judicial department's investigation of Wei Jingsheng did not violate any so-called international standards. On the contrary, it was some people, some organisations, that interfered in our judicial process.

Well then, let us have some such interference, the more the better. For instance, there is a group of Chinese dissidents who have managed to escape to freedom in the United States: their organisation is called Human Rights in China, and they say that the charge was "transparency political and a flagrant violation of international human rights standards". There is also, in New York, a body called Human Rights Watch, Asia, which has urged President Clinton and other leaders to demand that the UN human rights commission launch a special inquiry.

Yes, words cost nothing. But even if they were very expensive, there is going to be no censure of China by the UN, because the first thing that the Chinese Government did when the Wei Jingsheng scandal broke was to have its people at the UN fiercely lobby against any censure, and they were successful. Well, you might say (but I don't) that the stir caused by the Wei Jingsheng wickedness has put the Chinese Government on the spot. But, alas, the Chinese Government has a vast number of spots, and by the time the Wei Jingsheng spot

comes round, everyone will have forgotten him yet again.

But my beloved Hong Kong will not be forgotten, at least not until I am dead. And although I can do nothing to stop the crime that is pending only two years away now, I can still at least say something.

Again and again I said that the Chinese Government would, if it pleased them, break any promise given before the handover. But even I did not think that the most important rule built into the fabric of Hong Kong's human rights laws — civil liberties — would be attacked from Peking. Yet it is so, and the Chinese have recommended the scrapping of the human rights laws even before 1997 gives Hong Kong to the Chinese Government. That great pillar of Hong Kong democracy, Martin Lee, spoke up at once:

We believe these proposals are a shocking blow to freedom after 1997, and represent a real threat to Hong Kong people ruling themselves with the promised high degree of autonomy. No legislature elected by and accountable to Hong Kong people would ever pass these draconian proposals... into law.

Mind you, not long ago there was a similar suggestion, and this from inside Hong Kong. It was suggested that the Bill of Rights be stripped of its power to override other local laws, which prompted fears that human rights would not be protected. Again, Martin Lee spoke up: "I am horrified," he said, "although I have to say I'm not really surprised."

But these new blows are much worse. Chris Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, has taken a vast amount of buffering, but when he heard of what was happening he immediately made his position plain. He announced that he will veto any attempt by China to establish a parallel government in the colony before 1997.

That is all very well, but there are other forces in these battles. From Jonathan Mirsky's *Times* reports from Hong Kong, we learn that those battles may be lost. And some will ask — already have asked — what does it matter, when there are only two years to go? But I have loved Hong Kong (did you know it translates as "Fragrant Harbour") since I was still a ruin. That ruin touched my heart forever. May it keep that brave soul through all the storms to come.

Philip Howard



Take one Irish bull and milk it, American style

America, England and Ireland are two-and-a-half countries divided by a common language. Of course, they have their cultural differences as well. In England a public official caught with his trousers down with someone else's wife is humiliated as a sleazebag all over the puritanical tabloids, and fired. In other countries he is made President or Taoiseach.

As the presidential plane flew into Aldergrove yesterday, three gabblers of the common language looked out of the window and saw a black bull. "How interesting," said the American diplomat, expecting all-American uniformity and lack of complexity in the world. "So Irish bulls are black." "Not at all, sir," said the wily Irishman. "You can only conclude that some bulls in Ireland are black." "Not so," said the nit-picking Englishman diplomat, remembering Damien Hirst: "All we can really be sure of is that in Ireland at least one bull is black on at least one side."

It is a linguistic cliché that distance makes the language differ. Colin Kentrew argues that primitive languages were diffused outwards by neighbours chatting across boundaries rather than by mass tribal migrations. But language also changes as it spreads across frontiers and from tribe to tribe. Dialect and grammar shift across so slight a boundary as a river, watershed or village march. So it is not surprising that English changes dramatically across divides as wide as St George's Channel and the Atlantic Ocean.

America and England first came to be divided by a common language, in Wilde's memorable words, when colonists and immigrants isolated themselves from British speech by crossing the Atlantic. In British English, "the President is in charge of ten secret servicemen and 15 spin-doctors" suggests that he is in control of his formidable cohort. In American English, it means the exact opposite, and probably nearer to the truth, that the spin-doctors and secret servicemen are in charge of the President. British idiom would express this notion as "the President is in the charge of his supporting cohorts".

Pentagonese, which favours euphemism and windbaggy, finds it necessary to describe a spade as a "combat emplacement displacer". This circumlocution has not crossed the Atlantic to the MoD yet. But, by Nato and Brussels, it will, Oscar, it will.

As for the clever remark about countries divided by a common language, it is not as obviously Oscar's as is generally supposed. Some say Winston Churchill, others say Saki, most say Oscar, and it has the Wilde ring of the Oscar who was a wildly popular lecturer in America for his wit and dandyism. Most dictionaries ignore the quotation because they cannot trace its source. It has been one of the classic misquotations, like "Lead on MacDuff", and unattributable quotations, like the suddenly popular funeral poem of bereavement, "Do not stand at my grave and cry: I am not there. I did not die." (This last is attributed to various hands, including an American Indian funeral chant. But nobody knows, and so it does not get into the quotation books.)

England and America are two countries separated by the same language" was attributed to Bernard Shaw by *Reader's Digest*. And *Reader's Digest*, which employs infuriating pesters called fact-checkers, knows what it is talking about more than British magazines.

But that is not the end of the hunt. Shaw was a resourceful hack as well as a mischievous wit. If you turn up Oscar Wilde's forgotten story, *The Canterville Ghost*, you will find what may have been Shaw's source. This is a short story about an American family unfortunately named Otis who take a haunted house near Ascot and terrify the resident ghost with their modern manners. Now read on: "Indeed in many respects she [Mrs Otis] was quite English, and was an excellent example of the fact that we have really everything in common with America nowadays, except, of course, language."

So the instinct that Oscar was the author was half-right. Subsequent scribblers borrowed it and adapted it for new purposes. Creative plagiarism is another way that language moves across all frontiers.

## Little grouse

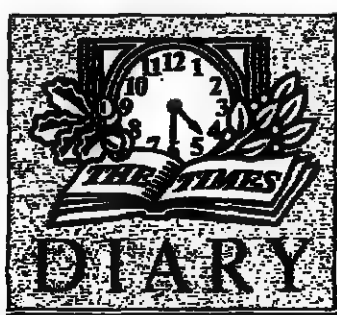
THE HATEFUL trill of the portable phone has invaded the last bastion of the Barbour set's rural idyll — the pheasant shoot. Tweeded gentry, who are already agitated by the advance of corporate man among the guns, regard the proliferation of the mobile phone as a calamity.

Next week's *Country Life* reports that stringent measures are being introduced. Lord Lichfield is said to have introduced a new rule at his shoot at Shugborough in Staffordshire: any gun whose mobile phone is heard ringing will be fined £20, and a gun who answers the call will be fined £50.

"It's frightfully bad manners to bring a phone on the shoot. Anyone who answers a phone should be sent home," says Rodney Hazard, agent to the trustees of the Lichfield estate. "When Lord Bradford answered a phone on a shoot earlier this year, my mother-in-law threatened to throw him out of the grouse butt."

The Duke of Devonshire supports fines: "I don't own a portable phone myself," he says. "But I hate them and I wish British Rail would have non-phone train carriages like non-smoking carriages."

President Aliyev of Azerbaijan, who is in London this week to open his country's Embassy, yesterday went to discuss the World Service with the chairman of the BBC, Marmaduke Hussey. These proved to be face-to-face talks of the most intimate — even closest — kind. On arrival at Bush House, they stepped into a lift with their interpreters, only to have the lift



become stuck just below the third floor for nearly half-an-hour.

### Ear ear

UMBRELLAS were being confiscated in drizzly Londonderry yesterday because they were considered potentially injurious to the President. Secret Service agents were stationed on all thoroughfares into the city centre, and were busy removing brooms from everyone and stacking them in rubbish bins for collection later.

Many gawpers were so appalled at the prospect of losing their property to the broly-anarchers that they decided to skip the Bill-and-Hillary show and go shopping instead. One further security scare came when Londonderry police announced they were hunting for a "serial ear-biter" who has gnashed

out on a number of occasions in the city. There was mild concern for the presidential robes.

### Taro misread

A HEALTHY FOOD which Jonah Lomu, the vast All Black rugby player, claims as his secret weapon, is falling lesser mortals. New Zealand health officers have issued a public warning about eating raw taro, a root crop responsible for a spate of poisonings.

The scare has arisen because many of those trying to emulate Lomu's giant size and strength have been eating what he calls "Tongan steroids" without realising what South Pacific islanders have known for centuries: that the leaves must not be consumed raw, but boiled thoroughly before mixing with coconut cream.

### Ratings war

THE WALRUS-LIKE trouble-shooter Sir John Harvey-Jones has been snubbed by the Ministry of Defence. It has refused him permission to visit the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth for a programme on Radio 4's *Going Places*, in which celebrities visit their favourite haunts in Britain. The big man has fond memories

of the college from his student days there, but his feelings are not reciprocated. Possibly because of Sir John's analysis of the college in a *Troubleshooter* programme earlier this year. "It's barney," he said of the institution. "Not a tenable situation in the long term. My view is that we are training for yesterday's Navy... It's an anachronism."

Madame Tussaud's has asked Naomi Campbell to choose something for its new waxwork of her. "I hope she doesn't have one of those 'I simply don't know what to wear days'," says the representative.

### Bowl up

DARREN GOUGH's bowling in the second Test in Johannesburg yesterday was unremarkable in all respects but one. It was the first time anybody can remember a fast bowler pounding down the pitch in sunglasses.

The wrap-around goggles remained on his nose to the bewilderment of the crowd. But there were suggestions that a bespectacled Gough was more effective than one without shades. He bowled erratically in his first session but was much improved in his second, when Vic Marks and Jonathan Agnew suggested on *Test Match Special* that his specs might account



Gough: behind the shades

for the improved form. Geoffrey Boycott disagreed, with Yorkshire tact. "What a pair of dazy twits," he said of his colleagues.

P-H-S





## SACRED SERVICE

The Queen betrayed nothing by attending Catholic vespers

Yesterday's vespers service at Westminster Cathedral was a serene occasion worthy of its stately venue. It was held to mark the 100th anniversary of this "Christian-Byzantine style" building, which Cardinal Vaughan began to construct in 1895. But the service is more likely to be remembered for a different reason. By her presence in the cathedral yesterday, Her Majesty the Queen became the first British monarch since the Elizabethan Settlement to attend a Roman Catholic service in this country.

There are those who believe this was a declaration of her responsibility as Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England. In her Coronation Oath, the Queen swore "to maintain... the Protestant Reformed Religion". Even more robustly, the Church's 37th Article declares that "The Bishop of Rome hath no jurisdiction in this Realm of England". Some Evangelicals have argued that the Queen's attendance at Roman Catholic vespers violated her religious duties. It was even suggested in a letter to *The Times* this week that her decision would be seen as "an overt marker that public vows are no longer binding on personal conduct".

These objections are baseless and atavistic. They appeal to a centuries-old anxiety about the relationship between the Crown and the Church of Rome. A principal cause of the English Civil War was anxiety about the alleged ascendancy at King Charles's court of crypto-Catholics. The Emancipation Act of 1829 was considered by many contemporaries — and some historians today — as the symbolic death of the old monarchical order. The notion that formal contact between the Royal Family and Catholicism is somehow corrosive to the British way of life and constitution has lingered far longer than it should. Even in the 1980s, it was judged inappropriate for the

Prince of Wales to attend a Mass in Rome celebrated by the Pope. The recent troubles of the Church of England have generated new fears and accentuated old ones. As many traditional Anglicans have gone over to Rome, some Evangelicals have become convinced that the Church must define itself more clearly and distinguish itself from Catholicism more visibly. The Supreme Governor, they argue, must take a lead in this campaign.

Yet the Queen's attendance at vespers should not have become embroiled with this debate about the future of Anglicanism. Her presence implied no concession to Catholic doctrine, no backsliding from the Protestant position — any more than the presence of a representative of the Chief Rabbi indicated that British Jews are flirting with Christianity. Instead, this simple ritual enabled the Queen's Roman Catholic subjects to express their loyalty to her; it enabled her, in her turn, to acknowledge that loyalty and to indicate her respect for their faith.

The signal from this gesture is not that the monarchy takes its religious duties lightly or is morally fickle but just the opposite. The Queen's presence at Westminster Cathedral had no doctrinal significance. Instead, it symbolised the importance attached by the monarchy to that which is sacred. Anglicans, Catholics and Jews define sacredness differently but they share the belief that it is something worth nurturing. One of the many roles that a modern monarchy can play is to support this spiritual quest in all its settings, to persuade people that the quest is worthwhile and to respect efforts to nurture what is holy. This is a symbolic function which the monarchy has performed since long before the Reformation divided Christian life in this country. In this sense, the Queen's attendance at vespers yesterday did not break with tradition but upheld it.

## MEANWHILE IN WASHINGTON

While the President is away the American agenda advances

Eight days is always a long time for an American President to be outside Washington. That is especially true now. A political struggle is developing that will fundamentally affect the direction of domestic policy and the role of the federal government in public life. To Americans who remember how candidate Bill Clinton contrasted himself to George Bush as the domestic policy President, his absence at this moment seems all the more curious.

Political struggles over the budget almost prevented this week's British ceremonies from happening. The closure of much of the federal Government for six days before Thanksgiving had already obliged him to cancel a summit meeting in Japan. Cancellation of the Ulster offensive was averted, and much of Washington re-opened, only by an interim agreement in which the White House was forced to concede the core demand of its Republican opponents: that the American budget deficit would be brought to balance in seven years on the basis of economic projections made by the Congressional Budget Office.

The President's capitulation reflected the constitutional and political reality that congressional Republicans now set the domestic agenda and that, at least for the budget, the White House can do little more than adjust the edges. The scale of that congressional agenda is vast. Republican leaders have agreed a package that would eliminate the deficits that have plagued the United States for two decades.

Through the threat of his presidential veto Mr Clinton can rearrange priorities somewhat. He will trade a slightly smaller tax cut for more modest cuts in healthcare spending. Nonetheless, the overall shape and purpose of the budget will not be altered. The same may prove true of welfare reform where a federal entitlement that has existed since the New Deal may be abolished and

policy returned to individual states. Policy seems set to move inexorably from the priorities and philosophy of President Johnson's Great Society to Speaker Gingrich's Opportunity Society.

Despite this shift in agenda the travelling President may still consider himself to have enjoyed a successful year. Politically he appeared dead after the electoral earthquake that ended the Democrats' 40-year hold on the House of Representatives. With his latest polling guru, Dick Morris, and a strategy of "triangulation", keeping his distance from both congressional parties, his public opinion poll ratings have risen. He has spent 1995 associating himself with popular parts of his opponents' platform while distancing himself from more contentious items.

In this he has resembled François Mitterrand's adept manipulation of then Prime Minister Jacques Chirac between 1986 and 1988. This is not an analogy that Robert Dole, his front-running Republican challenger, will care for. With a Colin Powell candidacy now foreclosed, the Clinton team approaches the 1996 elections with some optimism.

Regardless of how the President continues to perform personally, it seems unlikely that this will translate into support for his party at the congressional level. The Democrats have a deep crisis of purpose that will not be resolved by whatever support the President can garner for himself. The next Congress will probably spend its energies on passage of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and radical restructuring of public revenues along a flat tax model. If the President is still in office he will have little positive role to play in such debates. The American domestic agenda has been comprehensively captured by Republicans: the rest of the world may thus get much more experience of seeing Mr Clinton abroad in eight-day stretches.

## SILENCE OF THE LAMBS

The countryside is tranquil: true or false?

City-dwellers, on the whole, take two views of the countryside. Some believe that it is a deeply tedious place that smells of cows and has no decent restaurants. It may at times be tranquil, of course; but frankly, darling, tranquillity is overrated. Others subscribe to a pastoral tradition, which finds in the countryside the quietness and joy that cities and towns are supposed to have lost for ever. They take pleasure in brooks and bumblebees, gorse bushes and herds of sheep. If only urban life could be so charming, they sigh to each other.

But is the countryside really so idyllic? The Council for the Protection of Rural England does not think so. In a report published yesterday, the council lamented that the calm of the countryside has been shattered by roads which run like scars through the land, by chugging power stations, and by the sky-high growl of aircraft overhead. Its president, Jonathan Dimbleby, spoke weeping words. "Getting away from it all may become a distant memory unless we act to protect our rural tranquillity."

Yet those who speak of "getting away from it all" are prone also to getting carried away. The tranquil countryside exists exclusively in the urban mind, and always has done throughout history. In his *Idylls*, for example, Theocritus — clearly an urban sort of fellow — evokes the pastoral landscape of

his purest invention.  
We lay stretched out in plenty, pears at our feet,  
Apples at our sides and plumtrees reaching down,  
Branches pulling earthward by the weight of fruit.

Seen from Alexandria, we suppose they did. Virgil's *Eclogues*, too, are fanciful: haunting, and with some quite sharp bits about the resettlement of old soldiers, they are still the poems of a dreaming city-Roman.

It is these pastoral flavours, seen also in Spenser and Tennyson and Frost, that the modern, wistful urban being tastes in his imagination. The rural reality is different — and was ever so, even before countryside councils sprang up to write reports about rude lorries and planes.

Anyone who has spent a night by a farm will yearn the next morning for those familiar sounds of cars and urban clatter. The pre-breakfast moos and squawks are not part of the calmest script. Sheepdogs bark, crickets have their own orchestras, and a battalion of other creatures gives exercise to the throat. Remember Old MacDonald's farm? Silence there is not — not even in the most profound countryside. There can be tranquillity in one place alone; and that is in the personal landscape that lies between each individual's ears.

## Good and bad in a cautious Budget

From Mr Adrian Cosker

Sir, The principal reason for the Budget's cautious nature (on which the Chancellor is to be congratulated) is Britain's disappointingly slow growth rate this year, which has left the PSBR (public sector borrowing requirement) £7.5 billion higher than expected.

If Mr Kenneth Clarke is not to be forced into being similarly cautious next year, with probably catastrophic results for his party, he should brook no delay, and, notwithstanding opposition, that may come from the inflation-obsessed Bank of England, should stimulate the economy with interest rate cuts.

Yours etc,  
ADRIAN COSKER  
(Head of Economics),  
The Knights Templar School,  
Park Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire,  
November 29.

From Mr Philip Hamilton-Grierson

Sir, The Chancellor intends that contracts under the Private Finance Initiative, destined chiefly for hospital and road projects, should rise to £14 billion by April 1999. Such projects are regarded as private sector assets and the investment is not included under public spending; the PSBR is thus reduced and either taxes can be cut or more spent on other things like patient care.

Marvellous! Or is it? All that has happened is that the private sector is borrowing on behalf of the public sector and then leasing the asset to the taxpayer at a nice profitable return — a rate of return which has to cover the higher interest cost paid by the private borrower compared with that paid on gilts. If the Government had done the borrowing.

Off-balance-sheet borrowing is quite common in the private sector, but there are accounting rules on how it must be shown. Should we not have clear accounting rules for the Government? Otherwise we may actually believe that the Government is really being awfully clever and financially prudent when in fact it is stoking up inflation and putting a higher deferred revenue expense on the taxpayer.

Sleight of hand with the PSBR has no real merit. I could cut my overdraft by leasing my house and car and then spend more on day to day living expenses, but in the long run I will pay the penalty.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP HAMILTON-GRIERSON,  
Pitcombe,  
North Kessock, Ross-shire,  
November 30.

From Mr Andrew Cooper

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Anatomy of a lie", November 29) cites the latest British Social Attitudes survey in support of his theory that the public's preference for increased taxation to fund more spending on education and the NHS is "unequivocal". He does not mention that when last year's issue of the same survey asked people to evaluate their personal tax burden, only three out of the 2,000 people interviewed felt they were paying too little.

In the face of such clear ambivalence — which was a prime factor in the pollsters' failure to predict the last general election result correctly — it is not surprising that politicians are more sceptical than Mr Jenkins is about the public's apparently earnest wish to have more of its money taken and spent by government.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW COOPER  
(Head of Research),  
Social Market Foundation,  
20 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,  
November 29.

From Mr P. H. J. Whyman

Sir, The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs welcomes the Government's decision to modify its original plans for continuous licensing of motor vehicles by dropping the "off-road" licence proposal. It shows that ministers have heeded our representations.

Our suggestion was that 25 per cent of standard vehicle excise duty for vehicles over 25 years old would strike a fair balance between a social duty to contribute and the typical extent of use (most vehicles over 25 years old are insured on policies limiting annual mileage to under 3,000).

The Chancellor's complete exemption is a generous gesture which will be welcomed by enthusiasts, the vast majority of whom enjoy no more than modest incomes while their costs (already taxable) are significantly higher than those of the average motorist. The concession will also be of indirect help to the large number of small businesses which depend on a vibrant historic vehicle movement.

Yours faithfully,  
P. H. J. WHYMAN  
(Secretary), Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs,  
Elton House,  
Church Lane, Tydd St Giles,  
Wisbech, Cambridgeshire,  
November 29.

From Mr Gilmour W. Parvin

Sir, The duty on petrol only went up by 3.5 pence per litre.  
Thank goodness the duty did not go up by as much as 15.9 pence per gallon.

Another victory for metrication.  
Yours faithfully,  
GILMOUR W. PARVIN,  
26 Cromland Avenue, Edinburgh,  
November 29.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Black holes, little universes and a 'trick up His sleeve'

From Mr E. Peter Ward

Sir, Professor Stephen Hawking has revealed a "truth" long known to engineers, namely that the future is unpredictable (Nigel Hawkes's article, "God does throw dice" and leading article, November 23). But he does us all a disservice by flushing out the baby with the bathwater.

As an engineer, I find that Newton's rule of thumb is immeasurably more useful than Einstein's, Planck's, Heisenberg's, Schrödinger's and Feynman's rules of thumb, which I call "the replaceable elastic bands of scientific theory". What Hawking misses is the enormous variation in predictability.

I am prepared to risk my life on the prediction that during my next flight the engines of the aircraft will not fail; and I would put a couple of fivers on the proposition that the Motor Show will again take place next year, though whether the new Rover baby will appear is far less certain. The solar system, too, works pretty well. We all know, on the other hand, that weather forecasting is unreliable.

In the late 1960s I tried to formulate "a measure of predictability". May I quote my own words in this connection (*The Dynamics of Planning*, Pergamon, 1970):

In any system, the level of predictability is related, inversely, to the number, proximity and magnitude of interacting elements, their randomness of orientation and the time scale and, directly, with the degree of insulation from external factors and the scope for control. Number, proximity, control and insulation are clearly interrelated, since no system is truly isolated.

Planning, unfortunately, is conducted in a context where all the inverse variables are at a maximum, while insulation and control are at a minimum. I am almost ready to admit that it is impossible. Perhaps chess (a very simple game compared with business), with its almost infinite variety of contingent moves, depending on the activities of only one opponent, underlines the problem.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER WARD,  
Frio, Carlton Road,  
South Godstone, Surrey,  
November 24.

From Professor Emeritus

H. N. V. Temperley

Sir, The material universe is unpredictable because both matter and energy come in finite amounts, material particles and quanta. Professor Hawking's other arguments all amount to various aspects of this fundamental fact: Laplace's initial conditions — that if at any time one knew the positions and speeds of every particle in the universe, one could predict its future and trace its past — can never be known.

I suggest that an "uncertainty principle" governs our lives in the sense that it is not possible to predict the consequences of most of our actions.

## Protecting the foetus

From Ms Elaine E. Sutherland

Sir, Your reference to "new legal protection for unborn children" (report, November 29) ignores the fact that this legal point was decided in Scotland as long ago as 1989. In *McCluskey v H.M.A.*, a driver was convicted of causing death by dangerous driving when the child, born hours later, died as a result of a collision with a car in which the pregnant woman was a passenger.

While this is a statutory offence in Scotland, it is thought that the same principle would apply to cases of culpable homicide (broadly similar to manslaughter). It should be remembered that this case, and its recent English counterpart, applies within the confines of the criminal law.

So far as civil liability is concerned, the law in Scotland remains unchanged.

## 'Positive' discipline

From Mrs M. Hundley

Sir, I take issue with Mrs Cavaghan-Pack (letter today). I think the only time a smack is permissible is when you are at the end of your tether. Children are then shocked to find how far they have pushed you.

If you are so cool, calm, and collected that you have time to go into the kitchen to get a wooden spoon, you should be calm enough to find a better alternative.

Yours sincerely,  
MARION HUNDLEY,  
35 Kelross Road, NS,  
November 23.

## Tinkering with words

From Mr Ian Pittaway

Sir, Yorkshire Water may have made an important new contribution to the English language. My wife and I spotted one of its vehicles heading north to the wetter lands of Northumbria at the weekend bearing the legend "Tankering for Yorkshire Water". Tankering?

Yours sincerely,  
IAN PITTAWAY,  
Nicholson Graham & Jones,  
25-31 Moorgate, EC2,  
November 28.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Certainly not those of the most worthwhile ones, such as choosing a career, entering a competition, investing, writing a book, marrying, deciding to have a child — the uncertainty associated with them is the very spice of life.

Therefore, we are gamblers for much of our lives, whether we like it or not, and it is not "immoral" to take the bonuses that life brings us. In some of our activities, like research or exploring, the uncertainty is of the very essence.

I see no conflict with Christianity. Christians believe that God works through people and is continually using their responses to their situations and to the uncertainties that are part of them. Therefore He has to be a gambler.

Yours sincerely,  
H. N. V. TEMPERLEY,  
Thorney House,  
Thorney, Langport, Somerset,  
November 23.

From Mr Samuel Manoharan

Sir, While it is true that the quantum theory and the uncertainty principle support the theory that prediction in precise terms is not possible, predetermination (I certainly do not mean in a religious sense) or predetermined path is different. These theories show that both speed and the position of particles cannot be measured at the same time and hence prediction is not possible. True, man may never be able to measure and predict these things; but these measurements do exist.

Einstein's conviction that "God does not throw dice with the universe" should be interpreted to mean that man will be able to predict the future motion of a particle in probability terms only; but that assuming there is accessibility to 100 per cent information (in the case of God) there is only one outcome.

However, man will never have 100 per cent information, as in the case of a black hole. The 20th-century theories say that the universe is not deterministic to man; but this does not disprove that the universe is predetermined. In that sense, I think Einstein got it right.

Yours sincerely,  
SAMUEL MANOHARAN,  
44 Greenleaf Road, E17,  
November 24.

From Mr Robert Saxena

Sir, I attended Professor Stephen Hawking's lecture at the Royal Albert Hall on November 22 and would like to publicly thank him for solving, partly at least, some questions that have troubled thinking Christians for generations.

Actually, I am not surprised to see that, according to your leader of November 23, some theologians object to Hawking's use of the word "God" because they think "he does not understand it". My own experience of theo-

logians convinces me that it is they who do not understand the God of the Bible. Hawking used his God-given reasoning ability in presenting his case, and he showed he understood our Creator a lot better than religionists do.

Briefly, God created man with a free will, and a conscience to exercise it; which is why Scripture says man was originally made in the "image of God", unlike the animals, who were not given conscience or free will.

Now, if man had free will, the term would be meaningless if he could not use it. It could be said, then, that God gambled (by His granting man free will) to judge whether or not he would exploit his freedom for his good; so God gave him a simple test, "the forbidden tree". But man used his free will by failing the test, thus introducing a catalogue of woes afflicting mankind ever since.

However, in the words of Hawking, God still had a "trick up His sleeve" when He pledged at the outset of man's original sin that He would, in His own time, introduce a saviour for mankind (Genesis iii. 15). In a nutshell that is the Bible's message, and it does not fundamentally disagree with Professor Hawking's.

Yours sincerely,  
R. G. SAXENA (Editorial Servant,  
Bible Research Fellowship),  
25 Edgell Street,  
Kettering, Northamptonshire,  
November 23.

From the Reverend J. W. Fulton

Sir, What Hawking has shown is that the universe is *indeterminable*, not *indeterminate*. Could it be that Nigel Hawkes, and even Stephen Hawking, have confused these two different issues?

Just because we cannot predict every effect, does not mean there is no complete system of causes. Given unlimited information, even the future movements of lottery balls could be predicted. To borrow Einstein's image again, God does still have a few tricks up his sleeve, not because He gambles, but because He has more information than we do.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN FULTON,  
The Rectory,  
Church Lane, Hepworth, Diss,  
November 23.

From Professor Bob Spence, FEng

Sir, Having spent three exhausting hours with my 18-month-old grandson, and mindful of Professor Stephen Hawking's recent concern about what God is doing, I wonder if the Professor would entertain the hypothesis that He is moving distant objects even further away so that we don't play with them?

Yours,  
BOB SPENCE,  
1 Regent's Close, Whyteleaf, Surrey.

## Questions of entail

From Mr H. C. Norwood

Sir, The unhappy topic of entails on heirs male lingers, November 18, 25, 30) always makes for dissension in families. For instance, during January 1776, whilst living in Edinburgh, James Boswell attempted to draft such an entail which would have disinherited his own daughters.

Boswell's wife Margaret was distraught and wrote to Dr Johnson for help. Dr Johnson responded nobly, but he had to write six long letters to Boswell before common sense was allowed to prevail.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH NORWOOD,  
6 Church Row, St Mary's Square,  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,  
November 19.

## Where nurses learn

From Mrs Rosemary G. McGhie

Sir, I was interested to read Rosemary Righter's article (November 21) on the subject of the Queen Mother's hip operation at the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, London. She states: "This is not a hospital in which nurses learn by doing, with you as a guinea pig; as a three times patient in the past three years, I am convinced that they are the best — the most deft, knowledgeable and sympathetic — in the world."

I wonder where these nurses "learned" these skills and attributes? I suggest the NHS provides the training and standards to which the majority of the British public are exposed.

Yours faithfully,  
R. G. MCGHIE,  
Yasume,  
Pilmor Road West,  
Forres, Grampian,  
November 26.

## Oh dear

From Mrs Sara Mason

Sir, There appears to be an increasing trend in your Births announcements to describe new arrivals as "beautiful" or "lovely". Five of the eleven in today's column are so described.

What, I wonder, do the other six look like?  
Yours faithfully,  
SARA MASON,  
Lane Cottage,  
Amberley,  
Near Stroud, Gloucestershire,  
November 28.







## OBITUARIES

## CHARLES WARRELL

Charles Warrell, creator of the I-Spy books, died in a Derbyshire nursing home on November 26 aged 106. He was born on April 23, 1889.

FROM his Fleet Street tepee, Wigwam-on-the-Water, London EC4, Big Chief I-Spy, as Charles Warrell was universally known, launched a series of little books that helped to improve the general knowledge of thousands of children in the 1950s and 1960s. The aim of the I-Spy series was to heighten young people's awareness of the world around them by encouraging them to record their sightings of birds, animals, cars, castles, stately homes, trees, signposts — any one of a myriad of categories for which the books catered.

A tick for each item seen earned a certain number of points. A specific total of points entitled the "brave" who had scored it to apply to Wigwam-on-the-Water for a coloured leather to stick in a headband. The assiduous I-Spyer could thus acquire a veritable war bonnet of such gaudy trophies.

It would, of course, have been easy to cheat, claiming sightings that one had not actually made. But nobody ever did. The whole exercise brought out the old-fashioned "best" in everyone. For a brave to cheat, having initially invested a precious shilling to gain that status, would have been unthinkable. Even the "swapping" of sightings, though tempting, was severely frowned upon, and many a long bicycle ride was undertaken in weather fair or foul, to verify claims that a friend or rival brave might have made. In order to score the points on one's own account.

Charles Watson Warrell was born and brought up in Farnborough, Somerset (now part of the county of Avon), and went to school there before going for teacher training at Culham College, Oxford, from where he became a schoolmaster. For twenty years he was headmaster of a primary school in Nottinghamshire, and he continued to teach until he was in his fifties, by which time his writing had begun to take over and he decided to make a second career of it. He wrote for a



number of educational journals and after the war he contributed to a series called *I'll Teach You*, aimed at ex-servicemen who had not been able to acquire or complete an education.

He developed his I-Spy formula to teach children to be observant and to learn as much as they could about the things they saw around them. The idea was not, at first, taken up by publishers: the first eight firms Warrell approached with it turned him down. But once the little paperback books started appearing on the counters of Woolworths, the idea caught on and became immensely popular, peaking in the 1950s when there were half a million members of the I-Spy tribe.

The books were not just a matter of look-and-tick. Each had an introduction discussing the general scope of its contents and the items to be observed were well drawn and described. They were very much part of an educationalist's conscious postwar ethos which also spawned that other celebrated force for the enlightenment of the young, the boys' paper *Eagle*, founded and edited by the Rev Marcus Morris.

Warrell also wrote an I-Spy column for the *Daily Mail* and later for the *News Chronicle*, communicating with his braves weekly through a special code. He also held pow-wows for his young members all over the country. These were frequently attended by

thousands of children. In all these activities Big Chief I-Spy was helped by his second wife Marian, otherwise known as Running Deer. On one occasion they hired a fleet of double-decker buses and took 8,000 children to see the sights of London.

Warrell retired towards the end of the 1950s by which time 18 million copies of the books had been sold. But the series remained in print until the mid-1980s. Then, in 1991, the books had a second lease of life when Michelin took up the idea and re-marketed it. By this time photographs had replaced the line drawings and in the *I-Spy Cars* young readers were being asked to look out for the Ferrari 348 and the Renault Espace rather than the Austin 7 and the Vauxhall 14, while other volumes in the series which dealt with technical subjects had also undergone an updating.

True, the I-Spy ethos had, by then, lost some of its pristine flavour. Braves were no longer required to send their books to Wigwam-on-the-Water to have their claims ratified. This could be done by their parents. The headband and feathers, too, went by the board. Once parental assent had been given, a badge could be applied for.

In retirement Warrell lived for many years in Budleigh Salterton, Devon, and on his 100th birthday, in addition to the customary congratulations from the Queen, he also received greetings from the Education Secretary, Kenneth Baker, and the Social Services Secretary, John Moore.

In 1991 *The Daily Telegraph* prematurely reported his death (but then made handsome restitution for the error in the shape of a case of champagne). In fact Warrell was to live on for four more years, his faculties undimmed. Only failing sight prevented him from being the energetic I-Spying force he had been in his younger days.

Charles Warrell had a son and two daughters by his first wife Elizabeth, who predeceased him. His second wife, Marian, died last year and he is survived by a son and one of his daughters.

## J. B. POYNTON

J. B. Poynton, Classics Master at Winchester College, 1928-65, died on November 9 aged 95. He was born on July 11, 1900.

ONE of the finest schoolmasters of his time, John Blackburne Poynton came of good academic stock. He was the elder son of A. B. Poynton, Master of University College, Oxford, and his mother was the daughter of J. Y. Sargent, Fellow of Hertford College. He himself seemed initially to be perfectly cut out for the career of an eminent Oxford Greats don.

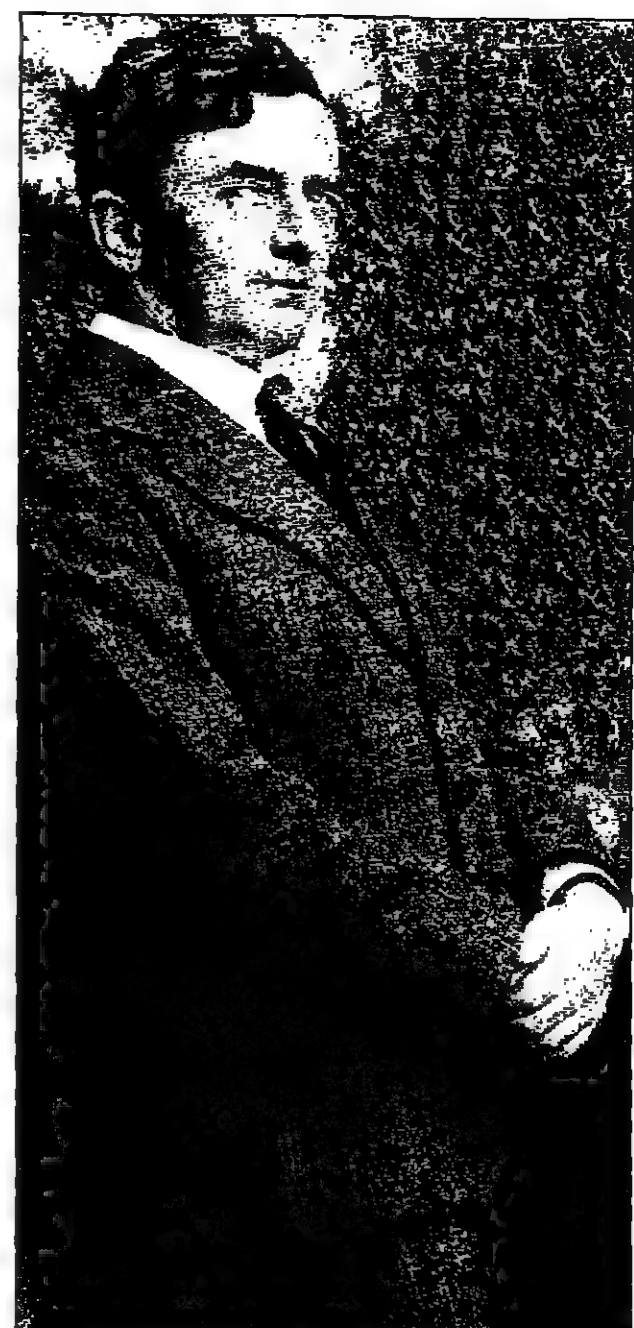
At Winchester College, where he was a scholar from 1915 to 1919, Poynton (as he was usually called) won almost every possible prize: Latin Essay, English Essay, Latin Verse, English Verse, Greek Verse, Greek Prose, English Literature and Divinity: only the Latin Prose prize seemed somehow to elude him. Not surprisingly, the nickname bestowed upon him by his contemporaries was "Ablers".

Going up to New College, with a Winchester Exhibition, a Pitt Club Exhibition and a Scholarship, he carried off the Craven, Hertford and Ireland Scholarships, and the Gaisford and Chancellor's Prizes for Greek Verse, Latin Verse and Latin Essay. Almost inevitably, these achievements were accompanied by a double first in Mods and Greats. The only man almost to have equalled this record was one of his own pupils, Sir Jeremy Morse, now Warden of Winchester College.

Poynton taught briefly at the Dragon School, Oxford, which he himself had attended as a prep schoolboy. He then took up a fellowship at Corpus Christi College but stayed for only four years: involvement in a contested and acrimonious election for the presidency of the college persuaded him that the world in which dons delight to bark and bite was not for him.

In 1928, with some relief, he left Corpus to return to Winchester, where he was to stay for the rest of his life. He was a wonderful teacher. He was strict in his demands for accuracy — every word must play its part, and every nuance and overtone must carry exactly the meaning intended. He taught his pupils to think logically, and liked them to make up their own minds. "Stick to what you know," he would say, "and what you make up must not be nonsense."

Strict he may have been — there was no sterner critic of the shoddy and the nearly right — but he also had a warm humanity. He taught not only the high-fliers of Sixth Form but also a modest junior form. Junior boys, as well as college men, were



invited to tea in his rooms, for hot toast and board games; in the holidays they went on walking tours on Dartmoor with him, and while the college men helped him to solve *The Times* crossword (always completed before lunch), and played chess with him in the evenings, the less intellectual challenged him to a hard game of Ludo.

He was never anything approaching an academic snob. Teaching at the Dragon School, he would often recall, was one of the happiest times of his life and even in his early days at Corpus it was a cause of particular pride to him that "once a week I would help the assembled passmen to get Hannibal over the Alps".

He enjoyed schoolboy humour. He once caught a boy in his class surreptitiously playing Dab Cricker: the state of play, he was disappointed to find, was Poynton bowled Ovid for nought. Toy Pot (Cup) and Melhuish Pot were school prizes for cricket; when the War Office announced

that, if the war was to be won, British boys must be trained to perform humble household tasks, Poynton commented in *The Wykehamist*:

O lovers of cricket beware  
Or else in the future it may be  
That Toy Pot is given for  
boiling an egg  
And Melhuish for changing  
a baby.

Poynton is remembered with affection by countless pupils as a typical bachelor Wykehamist: shy but kindly, complete with layers of different-coloured cardigans, smelly pipe, grubby mackintosh and ancient, unreliable car. But, above all, as many of them came to recognise, he gave to successive generations of Wykehamists a deep and lasting love of the Classics, together with a natural instinct for exactness and excellence in whatever tasks they attempted. Many orthodox family men have lesser memories.

He is survived by his brother.

## F. G. EMMISON

Frederick George Emmison, MBE, Essex County Archivist, died on November 9 aged 88. He was born on May 28, 1907.

DERICK EMMISON, as he was known to his friends, was an authentic Elizabethan character in his mercurial style and the versatile quality of his mind. It was fitting, therefore, that the focus of his academic and cultural talents should have centred on the Tudor period. It was to it, especially in the context of Essex history, that he directed his intellectual drive and from which derived his personal satisfactions.

Born in Bedford, he was educated at Bedford Modern School and gained first-class honours in the Cambridge and Oxford Seniors Local Examinations in 1922. Family circumstances prevented him from going to Cambridge. Instead he took up a post in Bedfordshire, where he became that county's first Clerk of Records in 1925. His appointment as County Archivist



of Essex at Chelmsford in 1938 proved to be the threshold of a career of distinction and innovative energy. It is no exaggeration to say that he was one of the pioneers of the modern concept of county record offices.

From his youth Derick Emmison had become familiar with the beautiful land-

scapes and delightful villages of northwest Essex. From this early experience, subsequently nourished by his role working in Chelmsford, developed his deep devotion to the county. The most conspicuous hallmarks of his career can be seen in the crucial part he played as creator of the Essex Record Office, recognised then

as now as a model of excellence, and in the outstanding scholarship of his prolific bibliography.

In the whole field of archival administration his name was, for more than fifty years, a byword for progress, professional standards and creative activity. In the background, more modest in the public profile of his life, was the encouragement and support he gave to numerous local historians and historical societies throughout Essex. Among such people his name will remain as cherished as it is respected among the professionals in his field who have profited from the value and quality of his work.

Enjoying the personal affection of a wide range of admirers among his colleagues and readers, he was generally regarded as an engaging figure. He was not, however, always easy to work with. People of his kind seldom are. The exclusiveness of his dynamic and single-minded application to his chosen topics did not always rest comfortably with wider con-

siderations or, indeed, with the susceptibilities of others.

The scale of his research and authorship was vast. It ranged from numerous contributions in the professional journals to works of historical significance. At one end of this impressive spectrum are studies such as *The Relief of the Poor at Eton 1706-1834*. At the other, works of importance to the understanding of the Elizabethan period such as the five volumes of *Elizabethan Life* which, drawn mainly from Essex sources, interpret the daily life of the period in all its social dimensions.

In the same company belong the monumental series of *Elizabethan Essex Wills*, replete with the raw material of social and economic history, and a treasure house for genealogists, published to volume ten before his death. The last two volumes of the series remain to be completed and published by the Essex Record Office and the Friends of Historic Essex. Practitioners will remember with pleasure *Tudor Secretary, Sir William Peire at Court and Home* and his works on the use of archives. All were written with style and the sensitivity of a scholar who had understood the idioms of Tudor life.

The recollection of those who heard Derick Emmison playing the virginals at the beautiful, roseate Tudor mansion, Ingeston Hall in mid-Essex, is a reminder that he was also a gifted musician.

In 1987 the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress published a book of essays, *Essex Tribute*, in his honour to recognise his massive contribution to Essex history and archives. He was appointed MBE in 1966, given an honorary doctorate by Essex University in 1970 and was the recipient of the Medlicott Medal of the Historical Association in 1987.

He married his Scottish wife Margaret, also a distinguished archivist, in 1935. She died last year. He is survived by their daughter and son.

Israel Cohen, US supermarket pioneer, died in Washington on November 22 aged 83. He was born in 1912.

UNTIL the advent of Israel Cohen, and of his father Nehemiah, most Americans did their grocery shopping in small shops specialising in individual products. So, for that matter, did the inhabitants of most countries in the Western world.

The Cohens changed all that. In 1936, with the Depression taking a firm grip on America and customers strapped for ready cash, they conceived the idea of a large store carrying a wide variety of goods at reduced prices.

The first Giant Food store was opened in Washington in the middle of a blinding snowstorm and proved an instant success. With his father running the business together with a partner, Samuel Lehrman, Israel, then 24 years old, drove the company

truck — along with his brother — to keep the shelves well-stocked. Within weeks the new way of convenience shopping was attracting customers in droves. The concept of the modern supermarket had been born.

Cohen, who was known to friends and employees alike as "Izzy," did not become president of Giant Foods until 1977, although he played a major role in the management of the company after the retirement of his father in 1964 and oversaw its rapid expansion.

He saw that mere grocery stores would no longer be sufficient to satisfy his customers, and during his tenure the stores became ever larger and more diversified. They began to have drug departments, gardening sections, and a host of other elements — a trend which was to become widely imitated.

The elder Cohen had envisaged Giant Foods as a regional, rather than a national, chain and it remained so

under his son. Nevertheless, it grew under his control from 90 stores to a total of 164, spreading from New Jersey to Virginia. Annual revenues are now nearly \$4 billion, and by some estimates almost half the inhabitants of the District of Columbia and its surrounding area do their shopping at Giant Food.

Such success inevitably attracted outside interest, and earlier this year the British firm of Sainsbury's bought 17 per cent of Giant Food's non-voting class A shares, as well as all 125,000 class AL shares, giving Sainsbury's the right to appoint three of the company's seven directors. Cohen, however, remained the controlling shareholder, and on news of his death the market value of Giant Food stock rose sharply on rumours that Sainsbury's might ultimately buy the company outright.

Izzy Cohen, who took a medical leave of absence only four months ago, is survived by one son and one daughter.

## ISRAEL COHEN

## ON THIS DAY

December 1, 1956



In the First World War, Flora Sandes, a rector's daughter, joined the Serbian Red Cross in due course she became a soldier and served in arduous mountain campaigns. She was later severely wounded, given a commission and in 1917 married a former colonel in the White Russian Army.

When, therefore, they reached country impassable to ambulances she took the Red Cross badge off her arm and said she would join the 2nd Regiment as a private. The procedure was simple: the colonel took the little brass regimental figures off his own epaulettes and fastened them on the shoulder straps of his new recruit, and official sanction came a little later. She was regarded as a considerable asset, for the simple peasant soldiers looked on her as a representative of England and a pledge that in the end England would help them. But their personal affection for her soon increased almost to idolatry, for under the stress of war she showed all the qualities they most admired — outstanding courage, cheerfulness, and sympathy. Her service with the Serbian

Army lasted seven years and she experienced the hardest conditions of mountain warfare, with terrible losses, through defeat and victory until the general demobilization in the autumn of 1922. The 2nd Regiment was known as the "Iron Regiment" and spent most of its time in the front line where she fought in every battle until she was severely wounded by a Bulgarian hand grenade in November, 1916. Sergeant Sandes, as she then was, was taken to a British military field hospital for Serbians, where she remained for about two months, and where she was decorated by the aide-de-camp of the Prince Regent with the Order of the Kara-George — a rare decoration given for conspicuous bravery in the field.

She was given sick leave in England, and in May, 1917, she returned to her regiment and took part in all further operations. She was given a commission in June, 1919, and promoted to lieutenant on demobilization in 1922, and in 1926 she received the rank of captain.

In 1927 she married Yuri Yudenich, who had been a colonel in the White Russian Army and had escaped from Russia during the revolution. He joined the Serbian army and had been in her regiment. They lived in France and later in Belgrade where during the last war they were both interned by the Germans. They were later released on parole. They had little to live on, but she had her army pension and taught English. Her husband died in 1941, and at the end of the German occupation she settled in England in a cottage in Suffolk where she lived until her death.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

<b>RENTALS</b> CHRISTMAS in Dublin, excellent New Year Party, 12-15, 16-18, 19-21, 22-25, 26-28, 29-31, 32-35, 36-39, 40-43, 44-47, 48-51, 52-55, 56-59, 60-63, 64-67, 68-71, 72-75, 76-79, 80-83, 84-87, 88-91, 92-95, 96-99, 100-103, 104-107, 108-111, 112-115, 116-119, 120-123, 124-127, 128-131, 132-135, 136-139, 140-143, 144-147, 148-151, 152-155, 156-159, 160-163, 164-167, 168-171, 172-175, 176-179, 180-183, 184-187, 188-191, 192-195, 196-199, 200-203, 204-207, 208-211, 212-215, 216-219, 220-223, 224-227, 228-231, 232-235, 236-239, 240-243, 244-247, 248-251, 252-255, 256-259, 260-263, 264-267, 268-271, 272-275, 276-279, 280-283, 284-287, 288-291, 292-295, 296-299, 300-303, 304-307, 308-311, 312-315, 316-319, 320-323, 324-327, 328-331, 332-335, 336-339, 340-343, 344-347, 348-351, 352-355, 356-359, 360-363, 364-367, 368-371, 372-375, 376-379, 380-383, 384-387, 388-391, 392-395, 396-399, 400-403, 404-407, 408-411, 412-415, 416-419, 420-423, 424-427, 428-431, 432-435, 436-439, 440-443, 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1636-1639, 1640-1643, 1644-1647, 1648-1651, 1652-1655, 1656-1659, 1660-1663, 1664-1667, 1668-1671, 1672-1675, 1676-1679, 1680-1683, 1684-1687, 1688-1691, 1692-1695, 1696-1699, 1700-1703, 1704-1707, 1708-1711, 1712-1715, 1716-1719, 1720-1723, 1724-1727, 1728-1731, 1732-1735, 1736-1739, 1740-1743, 1744-1747, 1748-1751, 1752-1755, 1756-1759, 1760-1763, 1764-1767, 1768-1771, 1772-1775, 1776-1779, 1780-1783, 1784-1787, 1788-1791, 1792-1795, 1796-1799, 1800-1803, 1804-1807, 1808-1811, 1812-1815, 1816-1819, 1820-1823, 1824-1827, 1828-1831, 1832-1835, 1836-1839, 1840-1843, 1844-1847, 1848-1851, 1852-1855, 1856-1859, 1860-1863, 1864-1867, 1868-1871, 1872-1875, 1876-1879, 1880-1883, 1884-1887, 1888-1891, 1892-1895, 1896-1899, 1900-1903, 1904-1907, 1908-1911, 1912-1915, 1916-1919, 1920-1923, 1924-1927, 1928-1931, 1932-1935, 1936-1939, 1940-1943, 1944-1947, 1948-1951, 1952-1955, 1956-1959, 1960-1963, 1964-1967, 1968-1971, 1972-1975, 1976-1979, 1980-1983, 1984-1987, 1988-1991, 1992-1995, 1996-1999, 2000-2003, 2004-2007, 2008-2011, 2012-2015, 2016-2019, 2020-2023, 2024-2027, 2028-2031, 2032-2035, 2036-2039, 2040-2043, 2044-2047, 2048-2051, 2052-2055, 2056-2059, 2060-2063, 2064-2067, 2068-2071, 2072-2075, 2076-2079, 2080-2083, 2084-2087, 2088-2091, 2092-2095, 2096-2099, 2100-2103, 2104-2107, 2108-2111, 2112-211
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Grand Met



DECEMBER 1995  
TV LISTINGS  
OPINION  
sacred service  
in Washington  
ilence of the land  
COLUMNS  
ERNARD LEVIN  
ILIP HOWARD  
AGNUS LYNCH  
TER PODEL  
TODAY



## ARTS 36-38

Toad, Ratty, Mole and the rest return to brighten winter



## EDUCATION 41

So, who is going to play Mary this Christmas?



## SPORT 43-48

Malcolm quickly turns tables in Johannesburg Test

TELEVISION AND RADIO  
Pages 46,47

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY DECEMBER 1 1995

## Stock Exchange to adopt competitive trading

By MELVYN MARCUS  
CITY EDITOR

THE Stock Exchange is to press ahead with plans to introduce an electronic "order matching" system of share trading despite bitter opposition from City market-making firms who fear the traditional "quote-driven" style of share dealing will come under threat.

Michael Lawrence, the Stock Exchange's chief executive, confirmed the decision yesterday after a board meeting that ended at lunchtime. Mr Lawrence described the development as a "very important step for the Stock Exchange and for London as a

financial centre". He refused to be drawn on events at the board meeting, other than to describe the debate as "constructive".

The decision to introduce competitive styles of trading into the Stock Exchange represents a defeat for the major market-making firms, several of which have waged a powerful campaign against such a move in order to protect their franchise. Barclays Bank's offshoot BZW and Smith New Court, recently acquired by Merrill Lynch, the US broking house, have spearheaded the opposition. Donald Brydon, deputy chief executive of BZW, and Michael Marks, deputy chairman of Merrill Lynch International, are both non-executive direc-

tors of the Stock Exchange. Inquiries indicate that John Kemp-Welch, chairman of the Exchange and former senior partner of Cazenove, supported the change.

A brief statement issued by the Exchange said that it recognised the "strength and success of its quote-driven markets which have provided liquidity to companies and investors alike for many years". The Exchange added, however, that "rapid changes in technology, communications and competition mean that additional trading services are desirable".

The directors agreed that the Exchange should "broaden its trading services" to increase their efficiency and attractiveness

and reflect both "current activities and future needs of market users".

Mr Lawrence said that it was too early to disclose how many stocks would be covered by the new alternative to the quote-driven system under which market-makers, whose capital is at risk, display the best price at which they will buy or sell a share on the Exchange's electronic Seaq board.

The Exchange hopes to introduce the order-driven system, used on Wall Street and on the continental bourses, next August. Stock Exchange documentation recently focused on the possibility of investors being able to trade in the top 350 companies via the new system. Mr Law-

rence promised that order-driven trading would be introduced in 1996 — a decade after Big Bang — but argued that it was premature to discuss which companies, or sectors, would be covered. He emphasised that the Stock Exchange would do nothing to "damage" liquidity.

Mr Lawrence claimed that the new Sequence VI technology was "three years ahead of any other system". Cost is put at £67 million. The Exchange's move comes hard on the heels of the creation of Tradepoint, the rival enterprise based on an "order driven" system.

Pennington, page 27

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3664.3	(+8.8)
Yield	3.81%	
FT-SE All share	1758.6	(+3.99)
Nikkei	18744.42	(+210.44)
New York		
Dow Jones	8993.54	(+11.93)*
S&P Composite	606.81	(+0.83)*

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	110 1/4%	(109 3/4%)
Yield	6.14%	(6.20%)

### LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Libor long gilt	110 1/4%	(109 3/4%)

### STERLING

New York	1.5308*	(1.5306)
London	1.5306	(1.5306)
DM	2.2139	(2.2064)
FF	7.5370	(7.5770)
Sfr	1.7385	(1.7370)
Yen	165.76	(165.87)
£ index	82.5	(82.4)

### DOLLAR

London	1.4470*	(1.4370)
DM	4.9907*	(4.9461)
FF	1.1755*	(1.1653)
Yen	101.79*	(101.55)
£ index	93.9	(93.7)

### Tokyo close Yen 101.65

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brant 15-day (Feb)	\$16.70	(\$16.80)
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### GOLD

London close	\$387.85	(\$388.50)
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\* denotes midday trading price

### Matthey fall

Johnson Matthey shares fell 38p to 533p after the company disclosed a 31 per cent drop in profits from catalysts in the first half. The fall reflects the loss of a substantial contract with General Motors. Page 30

### Royal merger

Royal Bank of Scotland and Bank of Ireland are in discussions about a £14.5 billion merger of their US banks. It is likely that the Royal Bank's Citizens Financial bank will be the dominant partner in the New England merger. Page 27, Tempus 28

## Threat to jobs at Post Office

By ERIC REGULY

THE POST OFFICE accused the Government yesterday of setting out to drain its financial resources to the point that it will have to raise stamp prices and possibly cut jobs and capital spending in order to stay even.

The criticism came after the Government revealed in its Budget papers plans to take £925 million in Post Office dividends over the next three financial years, against an original £534 million target.

In his first public comments since he was appointed Post Office chief executive a month ago, John Roberts said: "This means that for every pound we make, the Treasury will take 66p, excluding the corporation tax. When you put the two together, there's not a lot left... any private sector company operating with a shareholder like this just wouldn't survive."

He said it is "almost inevitable" that prices for first- and second-class stamps, now 25p and 19p, will now rise by a penny in April or May, and he would not rule out a 2p rise. The Post Office announced in June that prices would remain fixed until the year end, and hoped to keep them unchanged through 1996 as well.

The last price rise was in November 1993, when it was added. Every 1p price rise provides £130 million to £150 million in extra revenue for the Post Office.

Mr Roberts' outburst destroyed any hopes held by Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry that the Post Office would quietly get on with its business in the wake of the decision taken earlier this year to abandon its privatisation.

The Post Office, in spite of being given some additional commercial powers, clearly feels betrayed by the Government. Mr Roberts stopped just short of accusing it of using the service as a piggy bank to help to fund its deficit. He said: "The numbers speak for themselves. We're being asked to generate almost £1 billion

for the Government." Labour and the Communication Workers Union condemned the extra payments demanded by the Government.

Margaret Beckett, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said: "The Post Office needs greater investment and greater commercial freedom. The results of this short-sighted and short-term decision will be less investment and a further weakening of the Post Office's competitiveness."

Alan Johnson, joint general secretary of the Communication Workers, which represents about 160,000 of the Post Office's 185,000 employees, said the extra payments threaten to wipe out the service's profits. The Post Office reported a pre-tax profit of £423 million in the year to March 31, against £278 million the year before. After paying tax of £158 million, the profit was £265 million. If the Government dividend of £298 million payable in 1996-97 were applied to the last financial year, the Post Office profit would have been only £16 million.

The Government defended its decision to take more cash out of the Post Office by saying that sacrifices were being demanded from virtually every government service. A DTI spokesman said: "The Post Office has not been singled out."

Mr Roberts said that spending levels may have to be cut in spite of the extra income that would be derived from more expensive stamps. However, the capital expenditure budget of £350 million to £400 million in 1996-97 has already been set and is unlikely to be changed.

Job cuts might also have to be accelerated. The Post Office has eliminated about 10,000 over the past four years. "Inevitably, we're going to have to look at efficiencies," Mr Roberts said. "We're labour intensive business. We'll be doing more with less jobs."

Pennington, page 27



Night shift: Post Office workers at Europe's largest sorting office in Birmingham could be hit by job losses

## Council of Forte to take advice

THE Council of Forte said yesterday that it is taking legal and financial advice on its role in light of Granada's takeover bid for the Forte hotels and restaurant group (Eric Reguly writes).

The Council was set up in 1904 to promote temperance and now consists of eight councillors, including Lord Callaghan, a former prime minister.

It owns less than 1 per cent of Forte's shares but has just over 50 per cent of its voting rights, enabling it, in theory, to block any change of ownership.

In two weeks, the Council will go to the High Court to seek clarification of what its responsibilities are, and to whom it is responsible. It has appointed Hambros Bank as financial adviser.

Valerie Grove, page 18

## Hanson launches £2bn assets sale

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

HANSON, the Anglo-American conglomerate, launched a £2 billion disposal programme yesterday to help to cover the £2.5 billion acquisition cost of Eastern Group, the electricity company.

Unveiling a 7 per cent dip in full-year profits to £1.27 million and an unchanged dividend, Derek Bonham, chief executive, said the company was aiming for sales of £1.5 billion in the next 12 months. In addition, Hanson is selling its National Grid stake inherited with the purchase of Eastern in September, for about £450 million.

Hanson wants to cut gearing, currently 130 per cent after the Eastern acquisition, to about 65 per cent. While Mr Bonham would not specify which Hanson subsidiaries were earmarked for sale, he said it was considering small-

er businesses or those subsidiaries that did not fit with Hanson's more focused strategy. The most likely targets are Cavenham, a timber company, and Suburban Propane, a gas distributor.

Underlying profits for the whole group rose 33 per cent to £1.37 billion, helped by a strong performance from Quantum, its US chemical arm, where profits grew by 250 per cent to £451 million.

Hanson said the dividend would remain at 3p because it felt investing in the businesses would better serve future dividend growth. Investors have also received shares in USI, the demerged smaller American companies, equivalent to a tax-free dividend worth more than 9p a share this year. The shares closed up 3p at 195.5p.

Tempus, page 28

## GrandMet denies Burger King sale

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

GRANDMET, the drink and foods giant, yesterday pledged support for Burger King, its last food chain, after persistent speculation that the division was to be sold.

George Bull, the chief executive, declared: "We have no intention of demerging, exiting or selling Burger King." He said: "No-one ever believes us when we say it... but it is not for sale. The underlying profits growth it produced last year proves it is a success and a major contributor to profits."

Burger King increased worldwide comparable store sales by 5.7 per cent and opened 657 new restaurants in the year to the end of September.

Underlying operating profits from Burger King before franchising profits, increased 6 per cent to £166 million. Profits from franchising fell from £64

million to £30 million. This, along with a £9 million setback from currency swings sliced overall operating profits from £224 million to £196 million.

The City further warmed to Grand Metropolitan and its share price moved up 9p to 442p despite profits before tax and exceptional items slipping 3 per cent in the year to the end of September.

Overall, pre-tax profits before exceptionals fell to £912 million. The final dividend, payable April 9th, was set at 9.4p, making total of 14.9p — a 6.8 per cent increase.

Several analysts upgraded their forecasts after the group revealed a strengthening of prospects for spirits and the benefits of cost-cutting and improved performance in food operations. Lord Sheppa, the retiring chairman, said: "1995 has been the year that these

initiatives have begun to benefit all GrandMet's businesses and to position the group for sustainable, long-term growth."

The figures were also seen as putting some distance between the company, which recently completed its management progression with Mr Bull due to assume chairmanship from next March, and the bid speculation which has surrounded it for some time.

IDV, the drinks arm, saw operating profit fall 13 per cent to £455 million, largely because of the loss of Absolut and Grand Marier agencies and further currency impacts.

But the prospects for spirits made for more optimism after overall comparable volumes rose 2 per cent. The company said spirits prices could rise by 2 per cent next year.



Sheppa: pleased analysts



POUR MONSIEUR  
ELEGANCE IS TIMELESS

# CHANEL



# South West Water rises to £54m at half time

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

SOUTH WEST WATER announced a modest 6.7 per cent increase in half-year profits to £54 million before tax yesterday. But in line with other water companies, it has raised the interim dividend by nearly 8 per cent.

The company, which has the highest average bills in the country at £302 a year, increased turnover by 8.3 per cent to £155 million owing to a further 4.1 per cent increase in charges and a larger contribution from its non-regulated businesses.

South West Water faces the huge task of cleaning up one-third of Britain's bathing water. The company said that 30 out of the 33 schemes in its "Clean Sweep" programme were now completed or under way.

It is investing a further £600 million in improving services over the next five years, although group capital expenditure fell from £80 million to £48 million in the first half of the year.

The non-regulated businesses, primarily waste disposal and environmental services, increased turnover by 11 per cent to £47 million, but profits fell 25 per cent to £1.2 million.

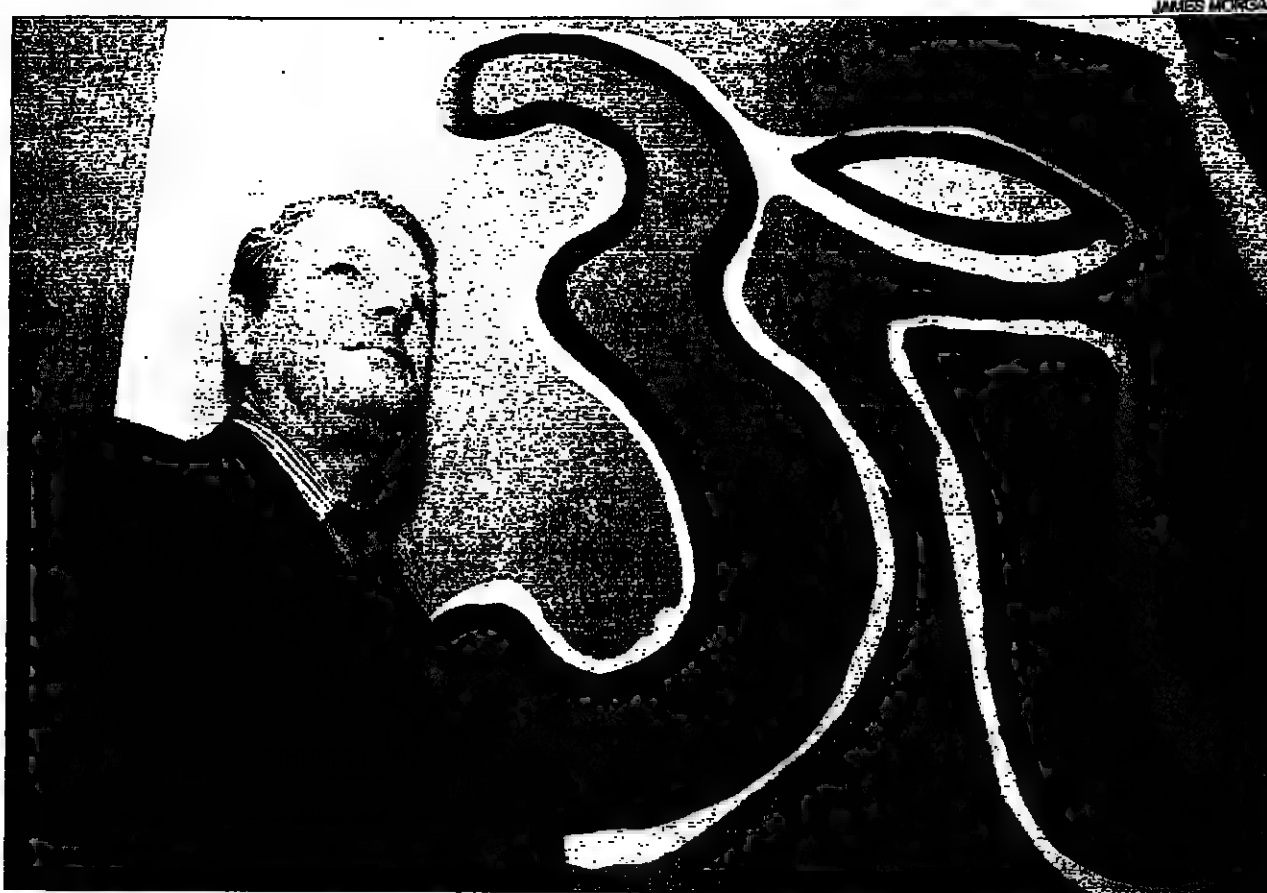
South West Water has recently spent £94 million on new acquisitions for its waste disposal and environmental instrumentation divisions, which it said would make a profitable contribution by the end of the year.

Keith Court, the South West Water chairman, added that the company was confident of rebutting Ofwat charges that it had charged customers for services it had failed to provide. He also said that after his retirement in April, the company will split the role of chairman and chief executive.

The share price fell 3p to 498p. The interim dividend is 9.8p compared with 9.1p, and is due to be paid on April 8.

South West Water said that about half of the region suffered from hosepipe restrictions at some point during the summer. But the company promised an extra £7 million expenditure on improving supply to vulnerable areas over the next six months.

Leakage rates had been reduced from 28 per cent to 22 per cent in the past three years. South West Water said its long-term aim is to reduce leakage to 15 per cent by the end of 1999.



Ewen Macpherson says a cut in interest rates would be a help for the businesses in which 3i invests

## Investments by 3i jump 18%

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

IN the half-year to September 30, 3i, the venture capital firm, invested £286.6 million in 297 unquoted firms in Britain, an increase of 18 per cent.

However, Sir George Russell, chairman, said there was evidence that the UK economy had slowed down after a period of higher growth, and companies were expecting a reduced rate of improvement in business conditions.

Ewen Macpherson, chief executive, said 3i had found

that the new issues market was quieter and there was "some slowdown in earnings growth of investee businesses". In spite of this, the firm had seen a "steady flow" of new investment opportunities and realisations since the end of September, he said. Investment is running higher than it was last year.

He said that given conflicting economic evidence "it is difficult to know where we will be in six months' time," but a

cut in interest rates would help the businesses in which 3i invests.

The interim dividend has been increased 10.7 per cent to 3.1p, due on January 31. Net asset value per share was 12.7 per cent higher at 390p. Shareholders' funds were £2.3 billion, up from £2 billion at the end of March. The firm's total return was £277.3 million, representing a 13.5 per cent return on opening shareholders' funds.

Realisations during the first half included Meconic, the buyout from Glaxo, Smith New Court, which was sold to Merrill Lynch, GCM Print & Packaging Service, Precast International and Soprodilec. In continental Europe, 3i invested £36.2 million, up from £34.5 million, with investment in France accounting for two-thirds of the total international investment.

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### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Ford workers vote to reject pay deal

WORKERS at Ford's biggest UK factory have voted overwhelmingly against the company's two-year pay offer. The 8,000 production workers at Dagenham in Essex voted by 93 per cent in a secret ballot to reject a proposed deal worth about 9.25 per cent. Union leaders at the plant said they were not surprised by the size of the decision because feelings were running high that the offer should be improved.

The vote follows a series of mass meetings at Dagenham and at the factory in Croydon. Steve Riley, the Dagenham union convenor, said the size of the rejection would strengthen the hand of the unions. "The workers recognise they have to be efficient and have put in a lot of hard work, but they expect something in return," he said. National union officials are due to meet on December 12 to decide their next move. Ford has offered a rise of 4.75 per cent now followed by an increase of 4.5 per cent or the rate of inflation plus 0.5 per cent from next year, but has refused to cut hours from 39 a week to 37.

## Dell on defensive

DELL COMPUTER has adopted a "poison pill" defence against possible hostile takeovers, although the US personal computer manufacturer has received no takeover offers. The board voted that shareholders will receive purchase rights to buy a new class of junior preferred stock. The rights could be exercised only if a buyer acquired 15 per cent or more of Dell's common stock or announced a tender offer that would result in ownership of 15 per cent or more of the company's stock. Recent merger activity, including IBM's acquisition of Lotus Development, spurred Dell to consider a defensive measure.

## Clubhaus's £18m value

CLUBHAUS is expected to command a stock market value of £18.4 million after its demerger from Ex-Lands next year. The company, which will embrace the leisure interests of Ex-Lands, will raise £5 million through a share placing in tandem with the demerger, with new shares offered at 7.5p each. Proceeds will be used to repay a £1.5 million loan for its purchase of Duke's Dene Golf Club in London. It will also provide working capital and enable it to pursue plans for expansion. Existing Ex-Lands shareholders will receive one Clubhaus share and one Ex-Lands Properties share.

## Kvaerner lifts stake

KVAERNER, the Norwegian engineering company that has launched a £375 million bid for Amec, announced yesterday that it holds 17 per cent of the British construction group's ordinary shares. Kvaerner, which is offering 100p a share for Amec, is now the biggest shareholder in the company, having increased its stake from 13.5 per cent on Monday. Amec responded by launching its defence, accusing Kvaerner of fundamentally undervaluing the company at only around 16 times earnings, when Kvaerner's proposed disposal of Amec's housing division and the total post-tax earnings is included.

## Vendôme suffers

VENDÔME Luxury Group reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £118.5 million from £105.7 million on sales up to £699.5 million from £605 million in the six months to September 30. Earnings were 12.6p a share (12p). The dividend rises 25 per cent to 3.6p. Vendôme, which makes watches and jewellery, says it suffered from a buoyant Swiss franc. Joseph Kanoui, the chairman, said: "With the continued strength of the Swiss franc, operating margins will remain under pressure in the second half of the year."

## Biotech price soars £5

SHARES in British Biotech jumped 505p to £15.48 yesterday after the company disclosed significant progress in the development of Marimastat, the oral anti-cancer drug. Interim phase II trials in advanced human cancer showed that 43 per cent of patients showed sufficient benefit to continue treatment with the drug after four weeks of therapy. Full results will be released on completion in 1996. The company also yesterday reported a decline in second-quarter losses to £4 million from £6.6 million.

## Tadpole deeper in red

SHARES in Tadpole Technology fell 10p to 78p after increased losses and provisions pushed the beleaguered computer maker deeper into the red at the full-year stage. The group, which makes hand-held computers, slumped to a worse than expected pre-tax loss of £9.95 million (£1.29 million loss) in the year to September 30. The shares have slumped from a high of 440p a year ago, but have partly recovered after touching a low of 36p. The loss per share increased to 38.7p (5.8p loss). There is no dividend.

## Scottish Radio record

SCOTTISH Radio Holdings, which owns four commercial radio stations in Scotland and a chain of weekly newspapers in Northern Ireland, turned into a 22 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to a record £5.11 million in the year to September 30. The group saw turnover increase by 9 per cent to £17.2 million, with broadcast revenue up by a further 6 per cent. There is a final dividend of 4.4p (3.6p), payable on February 15, giving a total of 6.5p (5.4p) for the year, up 20 per cent from earnings ahead 19 per cent to 15p (12.6p) a share.

## Fenchurch profits up

FENCHURCH, the independent insurance broking group, announced an 8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £8.4 million from £7.8 million in the year to September 30 despite difficult trading conditions caused by a fall in insurance premium rates. Turnover rose 5 per cent to £34 million and earnings per share increased to 14.7p from 14.3p. The proposed final dividend is 5.75p net per share, due March 8, lifting the total to 8.5p for the full year from 8p. The shares fell 2p to 135p.

## Imro 'was useless', Maxwell trial told

By A CORRESPONDENT

KEVIN MAXWELL is the only person who has accepted responsibility for his part in the collapse of the Maxwell Group, the Central Criminal Court heard yesterday.

Alun Jones, QC, for Kevin Maxwell, said: "The Maxwell collapse was a disaster." Many people had suffered seriously. He told the jury that others should accept their share of the blame.

Mr Jones said that, among them, Imro, the regulator for fund managers, had been "truly useless" for coming into the group in 1990 and not criticising. He accused it of failing to regulate.

He said Coopers & Lybrand, the Maxwell group auditor, had accepted "the casual movement of assets within the group for a decade" and had also accepted without complaint or reservation the practice of inter-company accounts and debts for many years.

Lawyers said Mr Jones, had also accepted as normal the casual movement of assets within the group, and had failed to detect and prevent conflicts of interest.

Legal and accountancy advisers, he said, had failed to attack the one-group philosophy, and NatWest had encouraged it. And the directors should also share the blame for allowing Robert Maxwell to run the group in the way that he did.

Michael Hill, QC, for Larry Trachtenberg, said the former Maxwell adviser, had become caught up "simply because he was there" when a group accountant needed a second signature.

Kevin Maxwell, 36, his brother Ian, 39, and Mr Trachtenberg, 42, deny conspiracy to defraud by securing a loan to the Maxwell Group against Teva shares worth £22 million which belonged to the pension funds. The trial continues today.

## George welcomes 'sensible' Budget

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EDDIE GEORGE, the Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had delivered a "very sensible Budget" but would not be drawn on whether he will now sanction a cut in interest rates.

Speaking at a conference on bank settlement systems, Mr George said on the chance of an interest rate cut: "We shall have to wait and see. A lot of factors go into that sort of decision."

The markets continued to speculate that rates will be lowered after the next monetary meeting between Mr George and Kenneth Clarke

on December 13. Gilts moved further ahead and short sterling futures continued to discount a quarter-point cut in base rates. Sterling remained stable near record lows, closing at 82.5 on its effective index, compared with 82.4 on Wednesday. The Bundesbank yesterday left German interest rates unchanged but a cut in the discount and Lombard rates is still expected some time in the next few weeks. A cut in rates would help to limit mark strength and perhaps allow a recovery in the pound, making it easier for the Bank of England to sanction a base rate cut.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.15	1.89
Austria Sch	18.54	18.04
Belgium F	48.36	44.08
Canada \$	2.193	2.033
Cyprus Cyp	0.738	0.683
Denmark Kr	9.18	8.58
Finland Mk	7.14	6.49
France F	8.01	7.28
Germany DM	2.36	2.15
Greece Dr	384.00	369.00
Hong Kong \$	12.23	11.53
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.1000	4.4500
Italy Lire	2581.00	2408.00
Japan Yen	170.30	154.50
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlands Gld	2.626	2.398
New Zealand \$	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	10.35	9.52
Portugal Esc	242.00	223.50
S Africa Rd	10.50	9.38
Spain Ptas	165.00	152.00
Sweden Kr	10.65	9.86
Switzerland Ft	1.02	0.94
Turkey Lira	1.02	0.94
USA \$	1.834	1.504

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

SWALEC

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HALF YEAR TO 30.9.95

- Operating profits up 20.9% to £56.7m
- Earnings per share 52.8p, up 34.7%
- Dividend per share 16.0p, up 5.0p
- Special dividend of £1.00 net per share announced
- SWALEC delivers on cost reduction commitments - operating costs down by £20.9m, underlying real reduction of 20.9%
- Continued operating profit growth in non-core businesses
- Second cable licence doubles the potential market for CableTel South Wales
- National Grid demerger benefits customers and shareholders

"Faced with unprecedented cuts in regulated income, SWALEC is committed to driving down core business costs and improving productivity. We have delivered on that pledge and grown profits in all our main businesses. This marks substantial progress towards our cost reduction targets of £45 million by the end of the decade.

"The news that CableTel South Wales has been awarded the licence for the remaining cable franchises in our region underlines the significance of this investment for SWALEC and the consistency of our strategy to grow income outside the core.

"The forthcoming demerger of the National

Grid Group is excellent news for SWALEC's customers and shareholders. Customers will be benefiting from a discount, including VAT, of £54.60; shareholders will receive a direct stake in the Grid and participate directly in its future dividends.

"The interim dividend increase, and our proposed special dividend, are further steps in a continuing programme of delivering maximum long-term benefits to shareholders through developing a successful - and value generating - Welsh company."

Andrew Walker, Group Chief Executive

SWALEC

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The Directors of SWALEC accept responsibility for all information contained in this advertisement. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the Directors of SWALEC (who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information contained in this advertisement, for which they accept responsibility, is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the impact of such information.

هنا من الاصل



□ Lord Sheppard promises restraint □ Beating the cross-Channel booze cruise □ Post Office stamps its feet

## GrandMet stays on the wagon

TO ITS critics, Grand Metropolitan is a hyper-active quasi-American corporation of dubious pedigree, unable to say no to the next big deal.

They are wrong. GrandMet is in fact a hyper-active quasi-American corporation of dubious pedigree that may at last have run out of deals to do.

Yesterday brought the final set of figures to be presented by Lord Sheppard, architect of GrandMet as it stands. In 1994, when he became chairman, it was a largely British collection of 30 separate businesses. Since then, probably three-quarters of that group has been sold.

The company has also peered deep into the abyss of debt — a peak of £3.8 billion after the 1989 purchase of Pillsbury. Only insiders will know just how close to the brink of that abyss GrandMet edged over the next two or three years, but outsiders discovered that Lord Sheppard was rather sensitive on the subject, which is probably indication enough.

Now GrandMet is a food and drinks group with an American corporate culture of high salaries and higher pay-offs. Debt is down, with interest payments covered more than six times by operating profits, a ratio that has

become the touchstone of successive finance directors.

GrandMet is now the compulsive spender that claims these days to be only window-shopping, the alcoholic who hangs around in bars drinking orange juice. It forswears the big sale or purchase — unless the price is too juicy to resist. A similar promise of frugality and sobriety was heard a year ago, alas, just a couple of months before the group fell off the wagon and splashed out £1.7 billion for Pet, the biggest deal since Pillsbury.

So vociferous was the board yesterday in denying strong market rumours that Burger King was up for sale that Lord Sheppard was happy to have the promise carved on his tombstone, just so long as this did not have to be put up immediately. In truth, GrandMet would only need to sell Burger King, worth upwards of £1.5 billion, if it had anything to buy in its place, and in the rarified world of global brands there is not much of any size available.

The shares were held back in the summer by the looming one-offs that left real operating profits 3.5 per cent lower yesterday. The future will be limited to slow but steady accretion of prices and margins.

Analysts were excited by hopes of a 2 per cent-plus rise in spirits prices this year, while there is much to be done at Burger King in Europe. All this makes GrandMet, whose unsteady lurches have stopped a few hearts in its deal-driven heyday, a duller but a safer animal.

### Duty calls for the smugglers

NOW all the pre-Budget hulling and puffing is over, and the drinks industry has got away with about the best result it could expect, the time has come to take a sensible look at alcohol duty.

The industry wants duty slashed right back to continental levels to beat the "booze cruise". As part of this Euro-harmon-



isation, perhaps we could also have provincial French hotels, Neapolitan blue skies and a London Tube system as clean, well ordered and efficient as the Munich Metro.

No chance. Instead, why not combine the duty and VAT that goes on to drink, and have it levied at the point of sale by the VATman? At present, the pint that costs £1.50 comprises 22p of VAT and another 25p of excise duty — but not if it is bought on the Continent.

So organised gangs smuggle thousands of crates of bottled beer, all well-known brands, which are passed on to un-

scrupulous club owners and pub landlords to sell over the bar. Sellers do not blink at the VAT element, which is levied in the usual way, because they save so much on duty.

As any small trader will tell you, the VATman has draconian powers and is genuinely feared. Fiddles take place, often of bewildering complexity, but the average small businessman would rather fall out with the local cop shop, M15 and M16 rolled into one than attract the attentions of the VAT inspector.

The merging of duty and VAT at current levels into one tax, paid at the four-ale bar, the off-licence next door or the local supermarket, would remove many of the attractions of organised smuggling. There would still be gangs going around the grimmer housing estates peddling cardboard crates of cheap lager. But there would be no alternative of an organised distribution system.

The brewers would benefit in two ways. Not only would they

gain sales from the smugglers, but if duty and VAT were levied as one tax, it would be clearer to those who occasionally stock up across the Channel just how much of the cost of each pint or bottle of wine goes to the Government. Today, it is disguised as two taxes. Such a dawning realisation might even drum up sufficient pressure of public opinion for lower drink duties.

### Return to sender

GUNG-HO supporters of Post Office privatisation could be forgiven for saying I told you so. If the Post Office was already in the hands of private shareholders, it would be immune from the wholesale looting revealed in the Budget papers.

John Roberts, the Post Office's new chief executive, argues that the extra £1 billion being extracted by the Treasury in the form of dividends should be used to make Royal Mail, Parcelforce

and Counters more competitive, not to bail out the Chancellor. He should stop complaining. Ownership has its rights and the Government, as sole shareholder, can do what it wants. Plenty of other government departments have had to make sacrifices.

Mr Roberts, in spite of his protests, has plenty of room to manoeuvre. The Post Office has made admirable efficiency gains, but more are available. British Telecom might provide some inspiration. BT, which has lost its monopoly and is under the regulator's orders to drop prices in real terms every year, has nonetheless emerged as one of the world's most profitable telephone companies.

The Post Office can hardly be expected to welcome the extra payments, but it could always make the best of a bad deal and cut out another slice of fat.

### Order, order

WELCOME to the 20th century. The Stock Exchange has done well to ram through, in the teeth of opposition from market-makers, a more efficient orders-driven dealing system. The process must now avoid becoming bogged down in endless consultative committees.

## Banks in talks on £14.5bn merger of US businesses

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Bank of Scotland and Bank of Ireland have confirmed that they are in discussions about a £14.5 billion merger of their US banking businesses.

As RBS's Citizens Financial has \$10.5 billion assets, and Bank of Ireland's First NH \$4 billion, it is likely that RBS will be the dominant partner in a jointly owned banking group. Each has strong market penetration in New England.

The two are conducting due diligence and a deal is expected by the end of the year. Dr George Mathewson, chief executive of RBS, refused to comment on the talks yesterday other than to confirm that they were taking place. The move is part of widespread consolidation in the US retail banking market.

At the presentation of RBS's results for the year to September 30 yesterday, Lord Young-

ger, chairman, said that while there were good reasons to expect that economic activity would rebound in the coming year, "there is significant risk that the present softness will continue". As a result, he said, it would be appropriate to cut interest rates. He said: "RBS has a pretty good reputation for prudence. This has been an extremely prudent Budget and I would hope that as a result of that, interest rates will be able to come down."

The bank unveiled a 13 per cent pre-tax profit increase to £602 million after bad debts fell 39 per cent to £114 million. It plans to distribute £30 million to 23,000 staff in a profit-sharing scheme equivalent to 8.8 per cent of basic salaries.

The dividend for the year has been increased from 13.75p to 16.2p, with the final payment of 11.6p due on

February 23. Bob Speirs, finance director, said RBS had decided to change its dividend policy. From next year, conditions allowing, it plans to pay an interim dividend of one third of the value of the previous year's total dividend. This will make next year's interim dividend 5.4p, assuming trading conditions do not deteriorate.

Profits from branch banking were 39 per cent higher at £238 million. Corporate and institutional banking made a 2.5 per cent higher contribution at £163 million. Direct Line, the telephone insurance operation, increased profits £2 million to £112 million.

Citizens' profits increased significantly to £107 million from £39 million, of which £30 million came from acquisitions.

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## Hogg Robinson cheers City with 35% profit leap

HOGG ROBINSON, the financial services and business travel group, pleased the City with a 35 per cent rise in first-half profits to £10.68 million before tax (Marianne Curphey writes).

The financial services division lifted profits 35 per cent to £3.67 million in a market beset by pension mis-selling scandals and a slump in the sale of life products. The results appear to vindicate Hogg Robinson's £13 million

purchase of Bain Hogg, the financial services group, from Inchcape in October 1994.

Brian Perry, chairman, said that success had come from anticipating and adapting to government policy. "We have for two years been talking to insurers about expanding the range of private health care insurance policies which the Chancellor mentioned in the Budget. We try to stay ahead of the

rest of the market." Hogg Robinson shares rose 11p to 204p.

Royal Insurance Group announced that it has sold 500,000 shares, reducing its holding to under three per cent in Hogg Robinson.

Hogg's business travel profits increased 25 per cent to £3.02 million, with a three-month contribution of £2.34 million from Sweden's Bennett Travel, the second oldest travel com-

pany in the world, acquired for £58.5 million in June. Hogg has also been expanding travel and business services into Russia and eastern Europe, although these made no contribution to profits. UK operations saw an 18 per cent increase in turnover and a 25 per cent increase in profits to just over £3 million.

The interim is up 11.8 per cent to 3.3p, payable on January 19.

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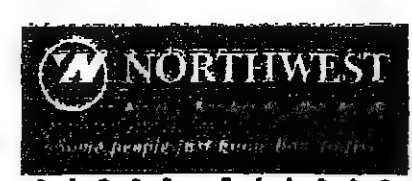


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Jean-Pierre Cuny: price increases

### BPB sees better margins

By CARL MORTSHED

BPB, the building materials group that controls half of the European plasterboard market, is forecasting better margins in the second half after cost pressures in the first six months of the financial year.

Despite weak housing markets in Britain and France, BPB's European plasterboard volumes were up 5 per cent in the half year to September 30. Underlying pre-tax profits were up 13.5 per cent to £86.4 million but the company's margins came under pressure from waste paper prices.

Jean-Pierre Cuny, chief executive, and the board say plasterboard prices have lagged the increase in the cost of waste paper, which has risen five-fold in two years. However, BPB has pushed through a 10 per cent price increase in Germany and plans further increases in the UK and France during January.

Gearing is down to 11 per cent and the dividend is up 8 per cent to 3.35p after earnings of 9.6p (0.4p).

### Rowland challenge to Gencor vote validity

## Lonrho to merge platinum

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LONRHO shareholders voted yesterday to merge the company's platinum interests with those of Gencor of South Africa.

The result is a defeat for Tiny Rowland, the former Lonrho chief executive, who was ousted from the board a year ago and who has since campaigned to stop the merger. He said last night he would challenge the validity of the vote.

The merger was agreed by 378.3 million votes cast for in favour of it compared with 1.5 million against. Sir John Leahy, chairman of

Lonrho, said: "Lonrho with Gencor will become the majority shareholders in the biggest platinum mining producer in South Africa and possibly the world." The merger will give Lonrho and Gencor 31.8 per cent of an enlarged Impala Platinum Holdings, which is quoted in Johannesburg and London. Impala shareholders must give their approval at a meeting to be held next week for the merger to become final.

Mr Rowland said last night he will challenge the validity of the proxy votes on the grounds that the 90-page circular sent out by Lonrho

before yesterday's extraordinary general meeting did not adequately inform shareholders of the facts before soliciting their proxies.

Mr Rowland last week wrote to each Lonrho shareholder and placed a full page advertisement in the *Financial Times* attacking the deal's terms, which, he said, did not compensate Lonrho with a fair price for the loss of ultimate control of its largest asset.

He did not speak at yesterday's extraordinary general meeting but sat surrounded by advisers who spoke in turn on his behalf.



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A summons is expected to be issued against Terry Venables who denies any wrongdoing and intends to contest any application to disqualify him as a company director

## Venables faces penalty threat as DTI cries foul in the boardroom

Jon Ashworth analyses what could be a tough fixture for the man at the helm of England's national football team

Terry Venables is hardly the first to fight the Department of Trade and Industry in its efforts to disqualify him from serving as a company director. John Gunn, former chairman of British & Commonwealth, is currently resisting just such an attempt; as is Sir Edward du Cann, one-time chairman of the Conservative Party. Tony Berry, former chairman and chief executive of Blue Arrow, emerged unscathed after a two-year struggle, when the DTI decided not to continue with its proceedings. It is a well-trodden path.

But the DTI's new-found zeal in its efforts to clean up UK boardrooms does not bode well for Mr Venables. He faces a tougher fight than someone in his position might have done a few years ago. Some 161 company directors were disqualified in the three months to September 30, compared with 53 in the same period last year. Proceedings were launched against 238 directors in the third quarter, compared with 146 in the same period in 1994. Almost 5,000 directors have been disqualified since the Company Directors Disqualification Act came into effect nine years ago.

Mr Venables, enjoying a high profile as England football team coach, faces proceedings in relation to four companies — Scribes West, Edenmore, Tottenham Hotspur plc, and Tottenham Hotspur Football and Athletic Company. The DTI has concluded that there are no grounds for criminal proceedings against him, but intends to press for his disqualification. A summons is expected to be issued next week. Mr Venables denies any wrongdoing, and intends to contest the proceedings. He faces a ban of between two and 15 years, if the DTI's application succeeds.

Those on the receiving end of a criminal trial have had little say in the matter. Roger Levitt, the failed financial adviser, was disqualified from serving as a director for seven years, after admitting to a minor charge of

misleading City regulators. His company collapsed in December 1990 with debts of £34 million. The judge, sentencing him to a token 180 hours community service, imposed the ban with the intention, the court heard, of protecting the public "for a very long time". He is now barred for life from the financial services industry.

A similar fate awaited Wallace Duncan Smith, the disgraced merchant banker, who was jailed for six years at the Old Bailey in March 1994 after running up losses of £100 million. He was disqualified as a director for 12 years after being found guilty of fraudulent trading and of obtaining property by deception.

Robert Miller, former head of Dunsdale Securities, was barred from serving as a company director for ten years, after his trial in June 1991. He had pleaded guilty to 19 charges, including forgery and deception, and was jailed for six years. Peter Clowes is one of only 24 people to have been barred for the maximum 15 years. He was jailed for

ten years in February 1992 for his part in the Barlow Clowes collapse.

The severity of the sentences is related to the fact that criminal proceedings were brought in the cases above. Mr Venables faces no criminal proceedings.

The importance with which the courts regard disqualification orders was underlined in May 1994, when Nazrudin Virani, former head of Control Securities, was jailed for two-and-a-half years for hoodwinking auditors. The judge declined to disqualify him, saying this would give him a chance to rebuild his career on his release. Mr Virani was released in August, and has so far kept a low profile.

Disqualification proceedings were initiated in August 1991 against Sir Edward du Cann, former chairman of Lomrho, and former chairman of the Conservative Party. Sir Edward was deputy chairman of Homes Assured, the mortgage broker which collapsed in 1989 with debts of nearly £10 million, and was criticised in an

earlier DTI report into Keyser Ullman, the merchant bank.

Sir Edward announced in June that he was taking the DTI to the European Commission of Human Rights, claiming that its actions had destroyed his reputation and forced him into bankruptcy. He was forced to resign his Lomrho chairmanship, fell heavily into debt, and was declared bankrupt in 1993.

Gerald James, the former merchant banker at the centre of the Jonathan Aitken arms-to-Iran row, is among those fighting disqualification proceedings. He and five other directors of the collapsed Astra group of companies face bans of between two and 15 years. Proceedings were launched in the summer of 1993.

Disqualifications are not always automatic. The DTI decided not to disqualify the Fayed brothers, in spite of publishing a scathing report into their conduct during the £615 million takeover battle for House of Fraser in 1985. The DTI report said the Fayed repeatedly lied about their family

background and early business life to gain credibility during the bid.

Tiny Rowland, the Fayed's adversary in the fight for Harrods, was branded "the unacceptable face of capitalism" in 1973 by Edward Heath, who was then Prime Minister. Mr Rowland was acceptable enough, however, to survive a long career without falling foul of Department of Trade investigators.

A hardening of attitude by the DTI follows criticism that it has not been doing enough to weed out rogue directors. It emerged last year that one in four company directors had been involved with a failed company in the previous six years. A year earlier, a National Audit Office report suggested that rogue directors were seven times likelier to escape detection than in the late 1980s.

The message seems to have sunk in. As recently as August, Phillip Oppenheim, the Company Affairs Minister, promised further tough action against errant directors. He said: "In the modern markets, there is no room for 'Arthur Daleys' trying to pull a fast one at the expense of their customers or other businesses." The latest batch of disqualifications highlights directors drawing excess remuneration, diverting company funds, and failing to file accounts.

As the spotlight swings on to Mr Venables, he might care to share a few words with that veteran of DTI combat, Tony Berry. His moment of triumph came in October 1994, when the DTI announced that it had abandoned its two-year campaign to have him disqualified.

The DTI simply said that it had decided not to proceed on the advice of legal counsel. A furious Mr Berry claimed the fight to clear his name had cost him £1.1 million in legal fees. He had submitted 400 pages of submissions, sworn an affidavit running to 141 pages, and had a further 46 affidavits submitted on his behalf.

Mr Venables, no doubt, can look forward to more of the same.

## Money supply fears will not block cuts in interest rates

Janet Bush on why M4 is not pointing to higher inflation

Monetarism has long been pronounced dead in its pure form but the fact remains that strong growth in M4 money supply is being touted as the single big danger in the works for a Chancellor who is itching to cut interest rates.

M4 growth was mentioned as a key concern by Eddie George at his late September monetary meeting with Kenneth Clarke and the Chancellor dutifully shared his worry, though not with any great passion.

But in reality, a growing balance of opinion in the Bank says there are enough common-sense reasons to suggest that M4 — and indeed M0, which has also been growing rapidly — are not signalling a build up of inflationary pressures. The monetary aggregates are not a serious hurdle to lower interest rates.

For the uninitiated, M0 is notes and coins in circulation and bankers' balances while M4 is private sector holdings of notes and coins (excluding banks and building societies) and bank and building society deposits.

There is sufficient doubt about the current relationship between the monetary aggregates and future inflation, particularly relating to the behaviour of consumers, for the subject to be highlighted in the Bank's most recent *Inflation Report*. Let us take M4 first. The latest figures show M4 rose 0.7 per cent in October, taking its annual rate of growth to 8.7 per cent from 8.2 per cent in September. This is within a whisker of the top of its Government monitoring range of 3 to 9 per cent.

One reason why M4 has grown rapidly since the turn of the year is that the Government has tended to underfund the public sector borrowing requirement and this boosts broad money. But the Government is committed to funding the PSBR fully and this effect should iron itself out over time.

But there is another, more important, phenomenon at work. Nearly half of the £38.7 billion rise in M4 between December and September came from a build-up of deposits of individuals in bank and building society accounts. The Bank points to a series of reasons, including the fact that rates are currently more attractive than other forms of saving such as unit trusts and National Savings. Another reason may be that lenders have tightened up their criteria for mortgage lending, forcing prospective home owners to offer up larger deposits.

It also seems likely there is a significant impact from

the current wave of bank and building society mergers — and the hope of more to come. Of the £7.6 billion rise in individuals' deposits in the third quarter, perhaps £1.8 billion came from the bonuses paid to Cheltenham & Gloucester depositors. It is difficult to measure, but the Bank also believes people may have been switching funds from other savings to building society accounts in anticipation of mergers to come. The more on deposit, the bigger the bonus, people think.

Even more tantalising, however, is the Bank's suggestion that people are saving more because they are frightened about the future. Given the uncertainty over employment prospects, it suggests that households may have increased their precautionary savings and this is showing up in the large build-up in bank and building society deposits.

The Bank's analysis of M0 throws up an even more fascinating possibility that turns the old relationship between narrow money and inflation on its head. It is a delicious irony that the Bank thinks M0 may be

growing strongly precisely because people are becoming accustomed to, and are beginning to believe in, a low-inflation environment. One possible reason for M0's fast growth is that people are more willing to hold cash because inflation is low. They therefore do not need to seek compensation for this by putting

their money into interest-bearing accounts. In the days of 10 or 15 per cent inflation, holding cash for any length of time was just too expensive. Now, the cost is negligible.

Bank officials have long worried that interest-rate policy may prove to have been too lax, arguing that inflationary expectations are still too high because credibility in monetary policy remains only partial. Conversely, the M0 figures that still worry the City's inflation hawks, may be telling us that they are already lower, at least among ordinary people if not the financial markets, than the Bank dares to believe.

Naturally, the Bank is still worried. Economics is an art, not a science, and particularly difficult to analyse when psychology and behavioural change among individuals is a big factor. So, Mr George may continue to use M4 as an excuse not to cut interest rates despite all the evidence showing that the economy has faltered badly since the spring.

But even his own troops are not all convinced about the argument.



Peter Clowes received the maximum ban; Tiny Rowland proved acceptable; Roger Levitt was barred

### Over here or over there?

GRAND METROPOLITAN may be an increasingly transatlantic corporation, but at least one board member was seriously disconcerted by the Clinton visit to these shores this week. GrandMet was presenting figures to the City yesterday, and Gerald Corbett, its amiable finance director, was alarmed to hear on his bedside radio at 6am of "serious traffic congestion in London". Although the gazette is not the first animal that comes to mind on viewing the Corbett frame, its owner did a good impersonation and sprang nimbly from bed at once to ensure a speedy

### Bond market

WORKERS in the City who feel wedded to the job may in future be able to get married in the Square Mile as well. Moves are being made to approve premises for mar-

riage in the City of London. An application is going to be made to Parliament in the present session to enable approval by the Corporation of London of "premises within the City of London", including Temples, for the solemnisation of civil marriages. The operation is being masterminded for the City Corporation by the City Remembrancer, who is based at the Guildhall, and by Sherwood & Company.

### Rom reader

CHARLTON HESTON, the veteran actor who once played Moses, is still leading people to the Promised Land — only this time it is in cyberspace. Hollywood unveiled yesterday the first CD-Rom to star a celebrity. Charlton Heston's voyage through the Bible tells the stories of the Creation, Cain and Abel and the Exodus to the background of biblical

music and art. Heston was proud of his achievement: "It's refreshing, like being in the first talking picture or first colour movie."

### Moonshine

PHILLIPS auction house in Manhattan has been forced to change its description of what it says is a moon rock — after a complaint from an astronaut. Nasa is so sure that the rock up for sale is not from the

moon that it is not even bothering to test a sample. "We know where all our moon rocks are," says Nasa dismissively.

### Female first

ANOTHER breakthrough for women in business. Elizabeth Robson, 47, who runs a family building firm in Northumberland with her cousin Derek, was yesterday declared "Masterbuilder of the Year" by the Federation of Master Builders. Yesterday she said: "It's still a male-dominated industry but there are more women breaking through. I think the Federation of Master Builders is realising the advantages of having women involved."

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## LIG puts figures back on track

By MARTIN BARROW

LONDON International Group (LIG), the rubber products company that owns the Durex brand, has resumed interim dividend payments after restoring growth in profits following an extended period of restructuring and rationalisation.

The company is recommending a dividend of 0.5p a share for the six months to September 30, when pre-tax profits rose to £6.5 million from £1 million. At the operating level, before exceptional items, profits advanced to £9.3 million from £4.6 million.

Michael Moore, chairman, said: "The group's encouraging performance continues and the payment of an interim dividend has been restored. We are on track to meet our goals and budgets for the year, our second half being traditionally a stronger trading period for the group."

Margins improved to 6.7 per cent from 4.8 per cent, with total group sales rising 7.3 per cent to £139.5 million. At the same time, borrowings were clipped back to £43.6 million from £72.4 million, with £17.6 million raised from brand disposals. Further disposals are likely, with buyers sought for Cook Bates, the American manure implements business, and Planter, the hair care range sold primarily in Germany.

LIG's family planning division, comprising condoms, increased sales to £49.3 million from £45.3 million, with underlying growth of 10.9 per cent. Sales in America rose 25.7 per cent, helped by heavy advertising, and in southern Europe by 16.7 per cent.

Earnings per share recovered to 1.43p from 0.32p. The interim dividend will be paid February 28.



The shake-up at LIG has seen a return to interim dividend under Nick Hodges, chief executive

## Johnson Matthey shares tumble on interim result

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Johnson Matthey fell more than 7 per cent after the high technology precious metals company disclosed a sharp downturn in profits in the catalytic systems division in the first half.

The company said a 31 per cent drop in the division's profits, affected by the loss of a substantial contract with General Motors, restricted group pre-tax profits to £47 million, up from £45 million in the first half of the previous year.

The shares fell 38p to 533p

yesterday amid concern about the continued adverse impact of the division's problems on second-half earnings. There was also disappointment at the lower than expected increase in the interim dividend to 4.4p a share, from 4.2p.

David Davies, chairman, said that, in addition to the loss of the GM contract at the end of 1994, the division was affected by a decline in sales to two other North American customers, a generally flat market in Europe and pressure on margins.

In response, the company

has implemented management changes and is undertaking a big reduction in manufacturing and operating costs. Said Mr Davies: "These actions strengthen the division, although it will take time for the benefits to show through."

"We believe that the continuing tightening of emissions legislation in more and more countries and the strength of our technology provide the base for a sound long-term future for our worldwide autocatalyst business."

The other three divisions

lifted profits. Precious metals earned £21.9 million, compared with £18.5 million, and electronic materials improved to £10.4 million, from £8.2 million. Colour and print, including the Cookson Matthey joint venture, rose to £10.6 million, from £5.4 million.

Total turnover rose to £129 billion, from £113.6 billion, and operating profits increased to £51.1 million, from £47 million.

Net borrowings rose to £229.3 million, hoisting gearing to 71 per cent at the end of September, after the £106.4 million purchase of Advance Circuits Inc. in America. However, the proceeds of a £117.4 million rights issue in August to fund the acquisition were received in October, reducing gearing to 27 per cent.

Since the results, analysts have trimmed back their full-year forecasts to about £105.5 million, down from the group's expected £113.5 million. In the year to March 31, 1995, Johnson Matthey earned £95.4 million.

## Mall value writedown of \$30m by MEPC

By CARL MORTIMER

MEPC has written down the value of a Californian shopping mall damaged in the earthquake in January 1994 by \$30 million.

The Northridge Fashion Center in Los Angeles was reopened in July after extensive redevelopment, but the company has yet to settle its claim with the insurers, having received \$39 million so far. James Tuckey, the chief executive of MEPC, said he was confident that the mall would recover the business lost during its closure.

The Northridge mall was excluded from MEPC's annual property revaluation at the end of September, which showed an overall 2.4 per cent decline in the group's £3.2 billion portfolio but a 1 per cent uplift from MEPC's American properties.

Mr Tuckey said that the fall of 2.6 per cent in UK property values was primarily down to an upward shift in yields.

The yield on present income rose to 8.5 per cent at the end of September, bringing to an end the declining trend from the peak portfolio yield of 10 per cent in 1992. The slide in property prices has cut MEPC's net assets per share from 47p to 45p.

Mr Tuckey said that the upward movement in market yields was down to the perception that rental growth was not coming through.

Profits rose 10 per cent to £123 million in the year to September 30, leaving earnings per share up from 20.1p to 21p. The company is maintaining the full-year dividend at 20p per share, but would not be drawn on the timing of any future increase.

Lord Blakenham, the chairman, said: "The current level will be at least sustainable in the future in the absence of unforeseen circumstances."

In October, MEPC announced the purchase of North American Property Unit Trust for £191 million, adding another two big malls to the American portfolio plus an interest in land in Manhattan.

At the same time, MEPC also revealed its intention to sell its European properties, which have a book value of £184 million.

## P&O forced to drop Australian deal

P&O, the British shipping and property group, was forced yesterday to abandon its planned acquisition of ANL, Australia's national shipping line, after the Australian Government failed to broker an agreement between the company and the country's powerful unions. The Maritime Union of Australia had threatened to mount a national waterfront strike if the sale went ahead without its consent.

The collapse of the deal is an embarrassment for the Government, which will be seen as bowing to union pressure. It had heralded the sale to P&O as its preferred option, but will be forced to carry out a major restructuring of the shipping line. Richard Hein, managing director of P&O Australia, said yesterday: "We're disappointed but not surprised. The ball was very much in the Government's court to produce a package and they found that package difficult to produce." Last year, ANL made operating losses of A\$23 million, and expects to make further losses of A\$21 million this year.

## Export guarantees fall

EXPORT credit guarantees issued by the Government's official agency fell from £4.1 billion to £3 billion in its last financial year, despite a 75 per cent increase in the number of projects supported. Brian Willott, chief executive of the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), which guarantees medium- and long-term export business, said the fall reflected a "dearth of large projects". However, he noted that two projects, one in the Philippines and one in Vietnam, have been signed up in the year starting last April, which augured an increase in cover again in 1995-96.

## Adscene acquires titles

ADSCENE, the local newspaper publisher, announced acquisitions with a total value of £29.4 million yesterday. The company, based in Canterbury, Kent, extended its range of titles from 46 to 81 by buying the Tamworth Herald Group of local papers in the Midlands and a set of papers from EMAP in Kent. Adscene is spending £19.5 million in the Midlands. It is also buying 13 titles from EMAP for £9.9 million in a move to complement its existing titles. Adscene is funding the acquisitions through a £24.7 million share issue and £5 million from the bank.

## ASW losses forecast

SHARES in ASW Holdings fell 23p to 110p yesterday after the steel stockholding company said it expected to incur a small loss before tax and an £18.7 million exceptional credit in the financial year to the end of December. The forecast followed a deterioration in business conditions in recent weeks. Since October, margins on sales had fallen further to historically low levels. These margins are now 10 per cent on sales below the average margin for January 1991 to June 1995. An improvement in margins and the end of destocking will lead to an improvement in profitability in 1996.

## BEP confident

BRISTOL Evening Post, the regional newspaper publisher, is confident its strong performance will continue into the second half despite the impact of higher newspaper costs. Newspaper prices in the six months to the end of September rose by 28 per cent, although Stanley Clarke, chairman, said the group had tightened up controls over purchasing, stock levels and waste. Pre-tax profits dipped to £4.49 million from £4.78 million in the first half. The interim dividend rises 0.5p to 5p a share on earnings of 12.28p (11.37p). Profits from its retailing business increased by £100,000 to £500,000.

## Stagecoach steers profits 43% ahead

DISPOSAL profits and improved fortunes from its established businesses helped Stagecoach, Britain's largest bus company, to lift pre-tax profits 43 per cent to £20.7 million in the 24 weeks to October 14 (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The rise in profits was on the back of a 50 per cent rise in sales to £189.7 million. Disposal profits were £1 million. Acquisitions made during the six months

contributed £1.2 million to sales and made a loss of £126,000.

Stagecoach is an acquisitive company that has been the subject of investigations by the competition authorities. In August, it was criticised in a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report for anti-competitive behaviour in seeking to drive small bus operators out of business.

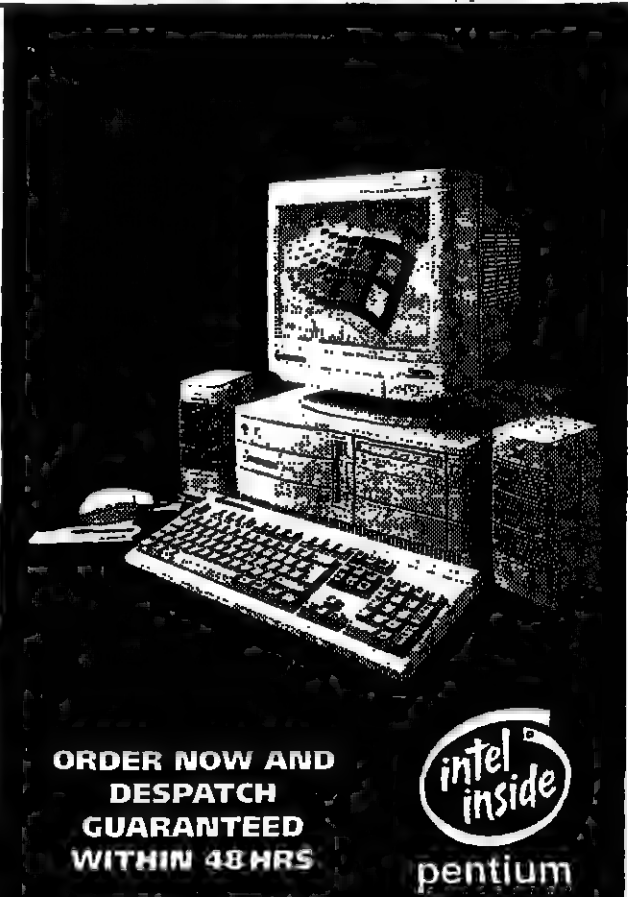
Brian Souter, founder and chairman,

said all the group's businesses lifted sales and profits, except Stagecoach South, which suffered from the exceptionally hot summer, delays in delivery of new vehicles and increased staff turnover.

The dividend, due on December 21, lifted 27 per cent to 2.2p and is being paid out of earnings of 9.5p, up 27 per cent from last time. The news lifted shares 5p to a high of 283p.

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**The Golden Arrow (1964)** 150776243



## Modest gains at the close

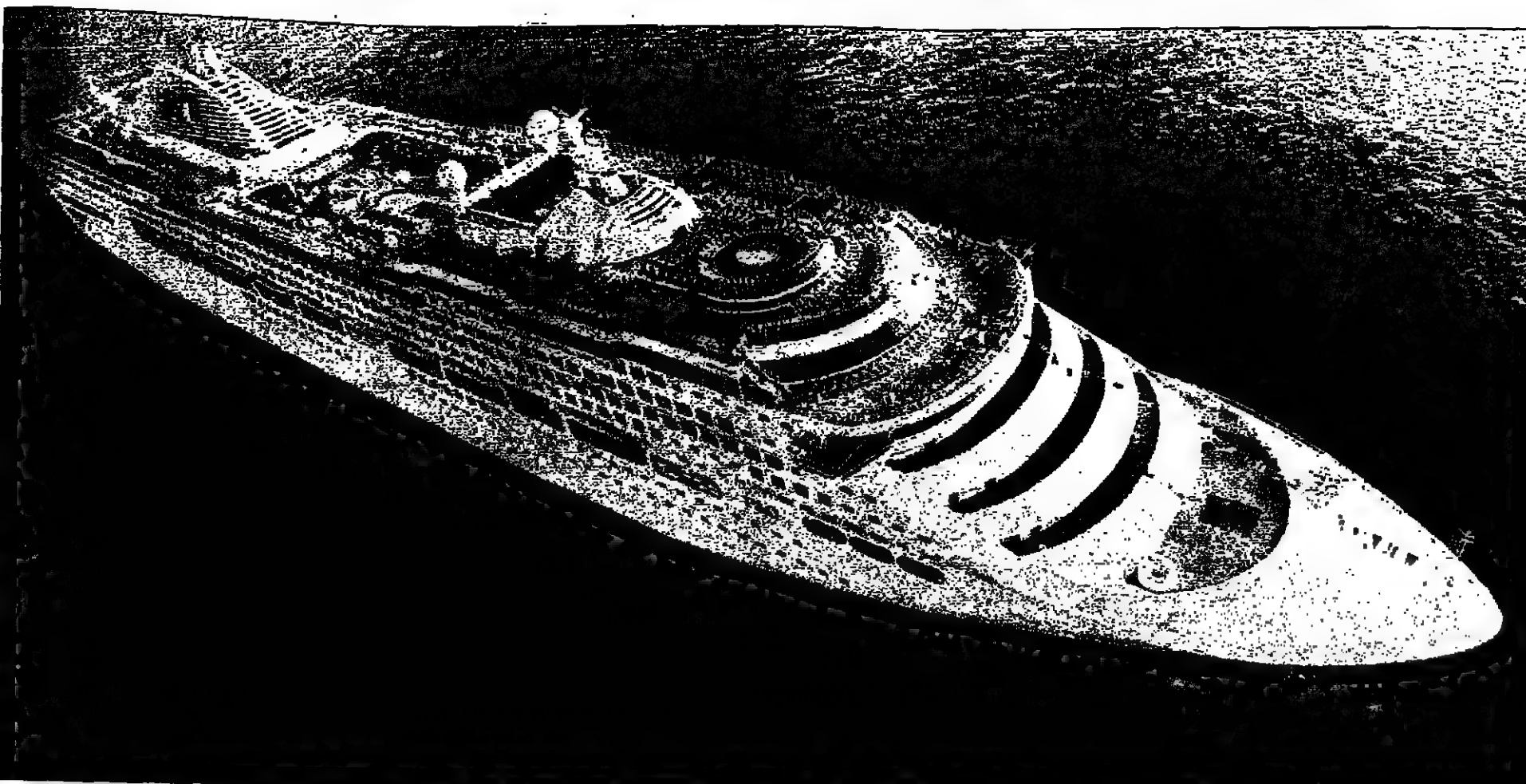
TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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FOCUS

# P&O: SUN PRINCESS



The Sun Princess, at 77,000 tons the largest cruise ship in the world, will carry 1,950 passengers. There are 22 suites with private verandas, and 424 outside cabins with balconies.

## High life on the ocean wave

**T**oday the largest cruise ship in the world will be named at Fort Lauderdale in Florida. Tomorrow she will set off on her first Caribbean cruise — fully booked. She is the 77,000-ton *Sun Princess*, the latest ship to be built for P&O's Princess Line.

*Sun Princess* marks a new chapter in the history of cruising. Like a vast floating hotel on 14 decks, she will carry 1,950 passengers, many of them in staterooms of exceptional comfort — there are 22 suites with private verandas, and 424 outside cabins with private balconies.

No more of those tightly screwed-up portholes to peer through. You can step straight from your bedroom into a little-roofed sunroom of your own, embedded in the side of the ship, and sit there, taking in the fresh air and drinking, as you watch the ocean and the islands go by.

The traditional, rather formal life aboard ship can give way, if you like, to a day and night planned entirely to suit yourself. There will be a traditional dinner in the two main dining rooms every evening, but even here the tables

When P&O's latest liner, *Sun Princess*, sets sail tomorrow, she will open a new chapter in the history of cruising, says Derwent May

are arranged in small, intimate groups on three levels. Apart from that, there is a 24-hour international food court, where you can scoff as much as you like whenever you like, and an Italian-style pizzeria — the *Verdi* — where you can eat among wrought-ironwork and latticework terraces, tiles any time from mid-morning to midnight.

All the food, whatever way you choose to eat, is included in the cost of the voyage. This is *Liberty Hall*. On a normal seven-day cruise, the *Sun Princess* will take aboard 2,000lb of king crab claws, 2,000lb of lobster tails, 300lb of whole lobsters, 2,000lb of sirloin steak, 400lb of strawberries and much more.

Although the ship is huge, she is designed so that you can tell where you are at a glance.

A vast colourful atrium, where the lighting changes from hour to hour, runs up through the four main decks, and most of the bars, restaurants and other places of entertainment radiate off it. You can see at once if the fun looks better up above or down below — that is all part of the informal style of life on board.

There is, of course, an open-air sports deck, and there are five swimming pools and five Jacuzzis. A wide promenade deck is wrapped round the ship — a feature that was commonly found, and very popular, in older ships, but one which has often been dropped in newer vessels.

Theatres are located fore and aft. In the computerised golf centre you can hit a ball at a distant flag portrayed on a screen, and find out from the computer how near you are to

the hole. You will be able to imagine that you are playing at some of the most famous golf courses in the world — no caddy needed.

There are also state-of-the-art centres with games both elaborate and simple for teenagers and children to enjoy. The average age of people taking cruises has been coming down in the past two years, and the *Sun Princess* has been planned to appeal to families with children as much as to couples.

This is the new world of cruising, where the benefits of size are combined with an economy of scale, so there is more variety and choice of things to do, and an intimacy to be found within the grandeur. There are so many plants and flowers dividing the areas on *Sun Princess* that there is a full-time gardener in the crew.

The master of the *Sun Princess* is Captain Augusto Lagomarsini, or "Lago" as he likes to be called — a tall, bearded man who was promoted to master 25 years ago. He has a crew of 900: the bar and reception staff are mainly British, the dining and galley staff mainly Italian.

*Sun Princess* will not keep her lead as the largest cruise-ship for very long. In the Fincantieri shipyard at Monfalcone, near Trieste, where she was built, a 100,000-ton ship, *Destiny*, is about to be launched for the US-based Carnival Cruise Lines.

Princess Line will itself be adding two more great ships to its fleet by 1998 — the *Dawn Princess*, a sister ship to *Sun Princess*, and the *Grand Princess* which at 104,000 tons will in turn eclipse *Destiny*. With these three Princess superlin-

ers, the line's capacity will have been increased by 70 per cent, with 750,000 passengers annually, compared with the present 430,000.

There are inevitable hazards in cruising. Last Christmas, Cunard's *QE2* set off across the Atlantic with her re-fit unfinished. In the autumn, the *Oriana*, another new P&O ship, had trouble with a faulty electricity generator and rough weather prevented her from getting into some scheduled Mediterranean ports.

However, when *Sun Princess* sails off into the Caribbean tomorrow she is expected to avoid any such problems. She will cruise in the Caribbean for the winter months, and in the summer will start cruising in Alaskan waters.

The Alaskan voyages will bring out the pleasure of the balconies and the verandas to the full, as the spectacular northern seascapes and scenery open up. P&O says a great many newcomers to cruising start on the Alaskan trips.

But on these occasions, too, all the panoply of sport and entertainment will be there to while away the days and nights.

## Caribbean sun warms Alaskan ice

After wintering in the Tropics, the cruises start from Vancouver for a taste of northern exposure

**C**ruises on *Sun Princess* begin at Fort Lauderdale on the east coast of Florida until next April. First port of call, on the next day, is a secluded beach at Princess Cays among the tiny islands of the Bahamas, where a barbecue awaits.

Then the ship heads south, sailing for a day past Cuba, and turning west to anchor at Montego Bay in Jamaica. Here the passengers who disembark for the day can go rafting, or climb the rugged Dunn's River falls.

On, westward, that night to the Cayman Islands, and a stop next day at Grand Cayman, with its Seven Mile Beach and the world's best diving. Then on to Playa del Carmen on the Mexican coast. Here, there are ancient ruins to be explored here — or passengers can spend the day on the island of Cozumel. A final day at sea steaming northeast takes the *Sun Princess* back to Fort Lauderdale.

The summer cruises in Alaska, which begin in May, unfold totally different sights. *Sun Princess* begins her voyage at Vancouver (for an extra £295 you can spend four days in the Canadian Rockies before she sails). This is a cruise among the coastal islands and bays of the Gulf of Alaska.

A day at sea going north through the Inside Passage between the mainland and the islands brings you to Juneau, the state capital. Here you can get into the Gold Rush mood with the honky-tonk piano of the Red Dog Saloon, and even do a little gold-panning — or take a helicopter across the icefields and land among the blue crevasses of the Norris Glacier.

Skagway, further north, was the gateway to the Klondike goldfields, and was known during the Gold Rush as the toughest place on earth. Here you can take a trip through the waterfalls and wilderness on the White Pass Railroad.

Up now to Yakutat Bay, with towering ice castles floating around you, and the sight of great slabs of ice tumbling with thunderous echoes into the calm waters of the bay.

After this, *Sun Princess* heads south again for her last port of call, Sitka, known as the Paris of the North before 1867, when Alaska still belonged to Russia. Finally back to Vancouver, through the Inside Passage again, with a last look at the icy mountains, and the chance of spotting eagles, seals and whales.

D.M.



Summertime sightseeing on an Alaskan glacier

## FINCANTIERI IS BUILDING FOR THE SEA

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With theatres, nightclubs, discos, casinos, bars – even a computer game arcade – boredom will not be a problem, says Guy Walters

## Fun is in deciding what to do next

Those who do not indulge in cruising often ask the question, "But what do you actually do all day?" Hardened cruisers give this as much thought as actors give to "But how do you manage to learn all those lines?" Cruisers find it tremendously easy to occupy themselves.

Besides, the question may be missing the point. There are many who will quite contentedly answer, "Absolutely nothing", but there are some who need to be entertained, and the *Sun Princess* has more than enough facilities to satisfy them.

The *Princess Theatre* would not look out of place in the West End. It boasts a 36ft proscenium arch stage, 550 Club-Class sized seats with interactive capabilities, an orchestra platform and a sophisticated lighting rig. It is decorated in an art deco style: a suitably decadent period to emulate.

The theatre will host a variety of variety shows and a circus troupe with jugglers and acrobats. It is unlikely that full-blown productions of *Hamlet* will take place, although the facilities are extensive enough to make even the RSC feel at home.

The aft Vista Lounge is a more relaxed, although no less lavish affair. A complicated web of fibre-optic lighting can be programmed to simulate various mood-enhancing settings. The stage area can be raised and lowered, which will no doubt delight some of the entertainers, such as Manhattan Transfer and Julio Iglesias. There is also a dance floor, from which you can admire the receding ocean as you samba, tango or move your hips occasionally.

For the more energetic, there is a fully-fledged nightclub called Shooting Stars, which is not somewhere Julio Iglesias would feel relaxed. The dance floor, which is transparent, is mounted over a bank of video screens, which gives the rather disconcerting impression of pop stars looking up your legs.

Those who are incapable of dancing may find the Grand Casino more to their taste,

despite the many ways for one's wallet to be lightened. As well as the predictable blackjack, roulette and poker tables, there are also 150 fruit machines, which make the room look like Las Vegas-on-Sea.

Passengers who are too young to gamble will have to resort to the Fun Zone – the children's centre – which consists of a splash-pool, a theatre and a doll's house. It also has a computer game arcade – Cyberspace – which should have children demanding something a little superior to their Sega consoles for Christmas. It is highly likely, of course, that adults will take over Cyberspace.

Golfing fanatics can play a virtual round on the Princess Links – a computerised golf range which features some of the planet's top courses. Because they are as convincing as those on real golf courses, the *Sun Princess's* virtual fairways will no doubt be busy.

The player, brandishing a real golf club, stands in front of a large screen, and the computer monitors the swing. The virtual ball can then be seen rocketing down the fairway, although on the first attempts it will probably end up in the virtual rough, or just dribble away from the tee.

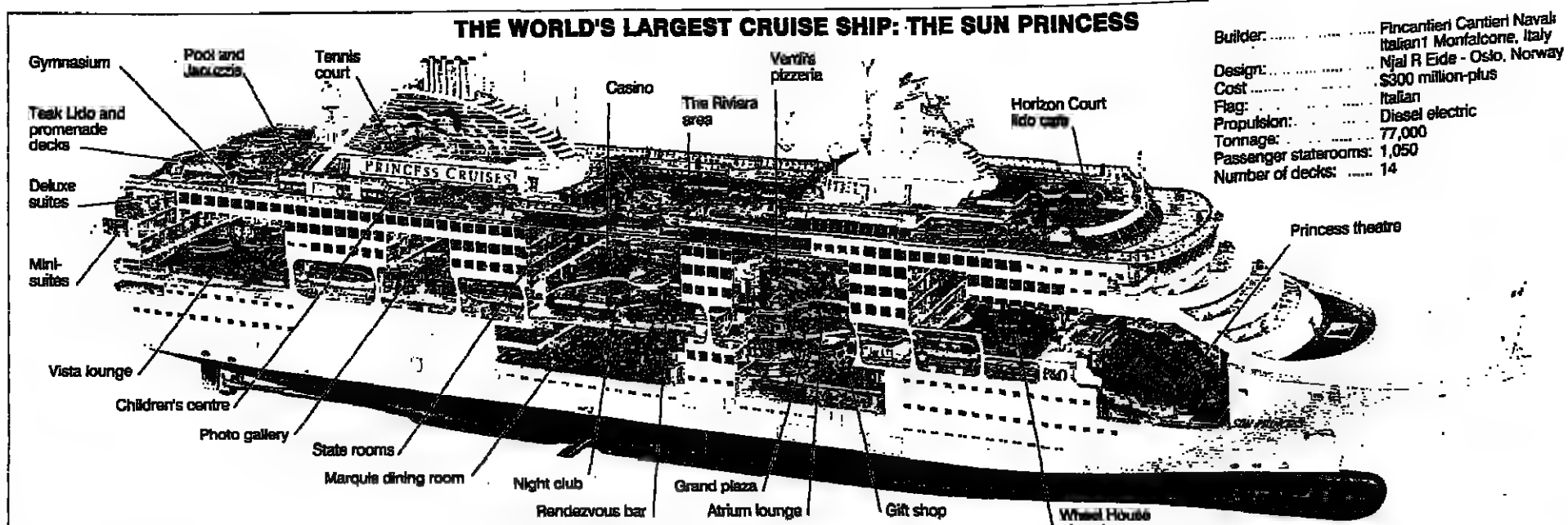
However, there are real sports. Next to the boat's funnels there is a paddle tennis court, and there are four swimming pools. The Riviera Spa gymnasium contains every known piece of torture equipment to hone bodies into a shape that will bettle a week's cruising, as well as saunas, massage rooms and an aerobics area.

Those masochists who like jogging will be refreshed to hear that a circuit of the boat is a quarter of a mile – far enough to work up a good sweat.

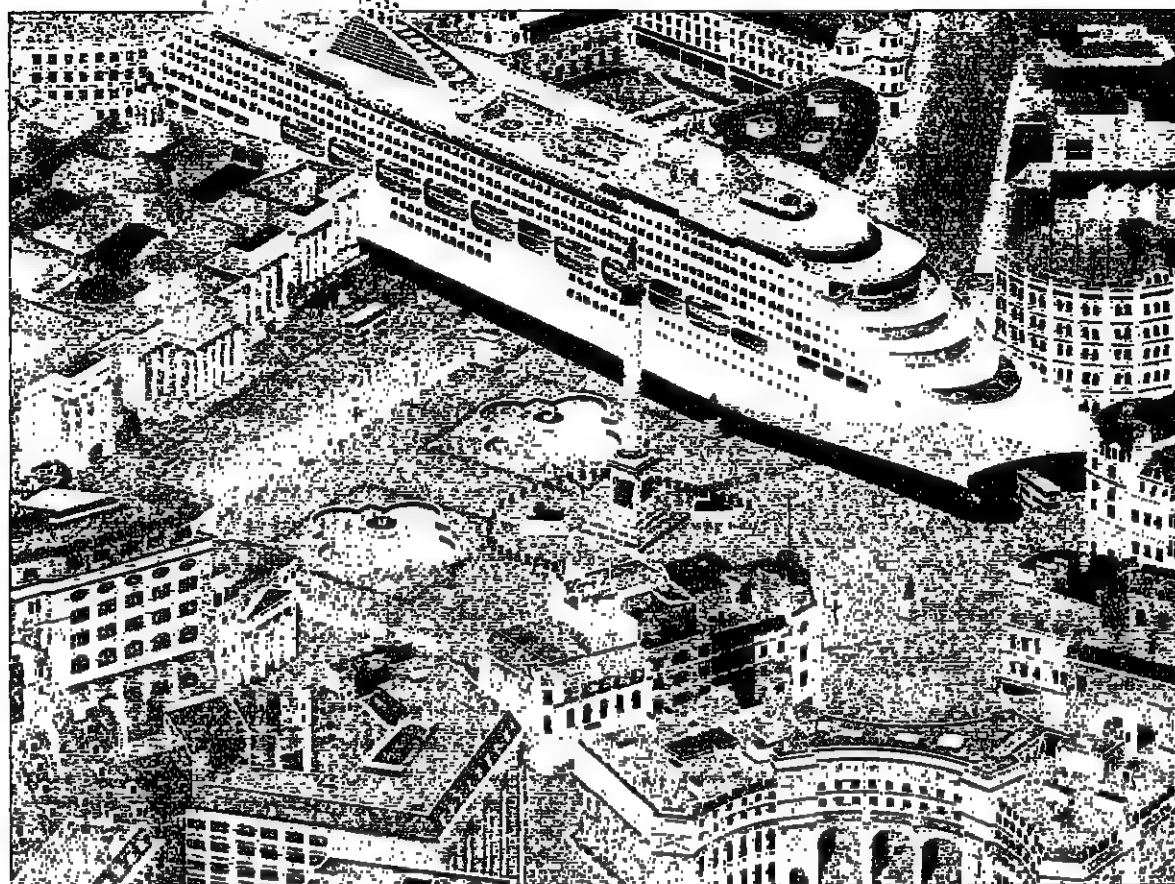
No doubt some of the boat's 1,950 passengers will not indulge in any of the above. Some will be happy to sit on their balconies and watch the sun chart its course, or watch television in their cabins.

Others may find enough entertainment in working out which is their favourite bar.

'Some will be happy to sit and watch the sun chart its course'



THE SUN PRINCESS TO SCALE IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE



THE FOOD AND DRINK CONSUMED



HOW THE SUN PRINCESS COMPARES

THE LARGEST PURPOSE-BUILT CRUISE SHIP	THE LARGEST UK-BASED SHIP	THE LARGEST BRITISH SHIP
Length: 298ft Passengers: 1,950 Crew: 800 Maximum speed: 21 knots	Length: 260ft Passengers: 2,500 Crew: 215 Maximum speed: 22 knots	Length: 263ft Passengers: 1,600 Crew: 1,000 approx Maximum speed: 22.5 knots

## Designed for the pursuit of happiness

Ship's design strikes balance between awesome size and intimacy

The *Sun Princess* is a town masquerading as a ship – with a population of 3,000, all it lacks are roads. There are theatres, bars, restaurants, a library, a nightclub, a casino, swimming pools, a fitness centre and many other facilities dedicated to the pursuit of happiness.

The ship took two and a half years to design. It seems a daunting task to the layman – where would one begin? "You simply start sketching on a blank sheet of paper," says Niall Eide, the Norwegian designer. "And you take it from there, always following the guidelines the client has given you."

Many compromises are made on

the way, but then that is the essence of design. However, one specification was immutable – the beam. At just over 32 metres, the *Sun Princess* barely scrapes through the Panama Canal.

Passengers enter the *Sun Princess* through the atrium. This is a sumptuous affair, mainly built in Italian marble, and containing handwoven rugs, lifts, and even waterfalls. It stretches the height of four decks, and is like entering a vast hotel.

"We wanted to find a balance between having an awesome space

and maintaining a relaxed feel," says Mr Eide. This has been achieved: the effect is impressive without being intimidating, thanks to the installation of many intimate spaces in and around the atrium.

On arrival, passengers will be shown to one of the 1,050 cabins, nearly two-thirds of which have sea views – 446 cabins have their own balconies. The cabins have a yellowy feel, indicative of the "sun" theme of the liner. All have their own bathrooms, some, of course, marbled.

An exploration of the decks will reveal more of the ship's distinctive

design. Around the pool areas the deck levels are stepped and split. "This allows a nice flow between upper and lower decks," says Mr Eide, "rather than an abruptness associated with other ships."

The *Sun Princess* also abandons the use of a single large funnel – instead there are eight small funnels, behind a see-through cage. "This is transparent for both aesthetic and functional reasons," says Mr Eide. "It feels more modern, and it stops a build-up of emissions."

The vessel's most staggering feature is her size. She has 14 decks and

a mass of 77,000 tons. With a length of 856 feet, she can nearly accommodate three football pitches, and four diesel engines can push the speed up to 21 knots. However, Mr Eide's team have ensured that none of the spaces gives the impression of enormity. Screens, walls, walkways and seating areas break up areas that would otherwise lack intimacy.

The Marquis dining room is a good example of this approach. Although it can seat at least 500, the restaurant never feels as ostentatiously large as, say, Conran's Mezzo in Soho. What's more, it's easy to get a drink on board.

G.W.



Variety shows in the 550-seater Princess Theatre

## Marketing is key in crowded waters

Cruising is becoming bigger business all the time. Worldwide, there were 4.4 million passengers on cruises in 1994, and this year it is expected that the total will reach 4.6 million.

The great majority are from the United States; about one in ten is from the UK. By the millennium, there may be altogether eight million people going up and down on ships for their holiday every year.

Three cruise lines dominate the world scene – Princess, Carnival, and Royal Caribbean, with the Italian company Costa also in the running – but many smaller companies are also commissioning new ships.

Airtours and Thomson, the two largest mass-market tour operators in the United Kingdom, went into the business this year. They offered many cruises at around £600, about half the average cost hitherto, and some Mediterranean

As more firms take to the sea, passengers can count on value for money

cruises at as little as about £400.

Airtours has had a great success with its first ship, *Seawing*, and Thomson has some good popular offers on *Sapphire*. Disney is also about to enter the game, hoping particularly to attract first-timers.

The kind of cruise offered on *Sun Princess* illustrates the new, informal style of luxury cruising which is growing more popular. In the past, the staterooms were generally filled with "empty-nesters" – middle-aged or retired couples

who had enough money and time on their hands.

There are going to be even more of these as the "baby-boomers" enter their fifties, but the cruise lines now want to attract families and young couples as well.

However, there is uncertainty about the future. The investment in a ship is colossal – the three new *Princess* ships will cost P&O \$1 billion (£650 million) – and even quite a small proportion of empty cabins can turn a cruise into a financial disaster.

Much energy is going into marketing. Disney has got a massive advantage with its brand name. In the United States in particular, Princess has gone on making the most of being the "star" of *The Love Boat*, a long-running television series in the 1970s, and still offers Love Boat Savers fares. It is advertising *Sun Princess* with the slogan "Here Comes the Sun".

A cynical view in the trade is that if the food and entertainment on board are good, the passengers will put up with anything else that goes wrong – but if the shows and the food are disappointing, nothing will please. So special efforts are being made to ensure quality in those two areas.

Altogether, the holiday-maker attracted to the idea of floating about for his fun should have good value for money over the next few years.

D.M.

## Tankers give way to liners

THE *Sun Princess* was built at the Montalione shipyard, 20 miles west of Trieste. Unlike many yards, Montalione is surprisingly attractive: one can even see wooded headlands beyond the mass of cranes and partly-completed ships.

Montalione, founded in 1907, is the largest yard owned by Fincantieri, Italy's state-controlled shipbuilder. It employs 1,800 people and vessels of over 250,000 deadweight tonnes can be built.

In the 1970s, a whole series of supertankers of this tonnage were built here, but in the past few years it has specialised in building large cruise vessels such as the *Crown Princess*, in 1990. With the completion of the *Sun Princess* the yard is now turning to the 104,000-ton *Grand Princess*, which will be delivered by 1998.

Much of Montalione's success is due to Fincantieri, which was established in 1959 as a holding company and then turned into an operating company in 1984. It is the world leader in cruise ship building. The Italian state takes Fincantieri seriously, and last June the company signed a syndicated loan for 2,000 billion lire (£800 million), one of the largest financings in the currency.

As well as winning the contract with Princess Lines, Fincantieri is also building two boats for the North American Carnival cruise group. In April Disney ordered two cruise liners.

## British firms point the way

Although built in Italy, the cruise ship has relied on UK companies

The *Sun Princess* may have been built in Italy and have an Italian captain, but she is still a very British ship, with many companies from the UK contributing to her construction (Guy Walters writes).

Lenco International, based in Grantham, was responsible for the liner's signage – an essential task given her innumerable walkways, lifts and staircases. The signs are luxurious: even the "You Are Here" plans are made from polished glass and marble.

Mivan, based in Antrim, Northern Ireland, outfitted many of the passenger areas. The theatre, the piano bar, the indoor café, the children's splash-pool, the three bars on the open deck, and much of the open deck itself were made by the company for a contract

worth more than £5 million. Much of the construction took place in Ulster and was taken in sections by lorry to Italy.

Clanric Engineering, of Reading, Berkshire, had a £1 million contract to supply and install the rigging and equipment for the Princess Theatre and the aft Vista Lounge. Gloster Leisure Furniture, of Bristol, supplied 100 of its "Bristolian Steamers" – sumptuous teak reclining chairs that can be found on the decks. Engleider, of South Normanton, Derby, supplied seven custom-built audio chairs: the arms contain a cassette player and controls for listening to audiobooks in comfort.

To make passengers feel even more at home, many of the ship's carpets were supplied by Wiltons.

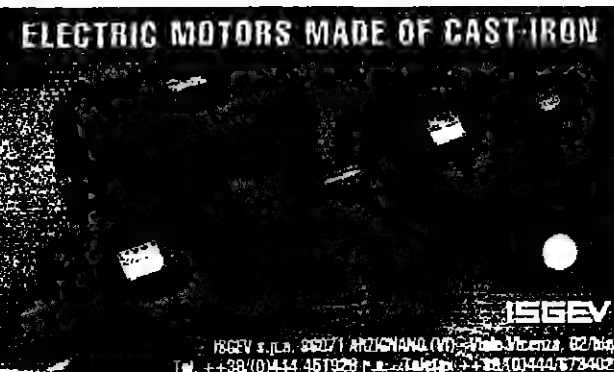
## Congratulations

to Princess Cruises on the occasion of the delivery of "Sun Princess"

Graphic Designers & Consultants **LENCO** International Ltd

Lenco International Ltd is proud to have been involved with the concept and design of signs onboard the magnificent new vessel "Sun Princess" and take this opportunity to wish Princess Cruises every success in the future.

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AY DECEMBER 1991  
ays Guy Walter

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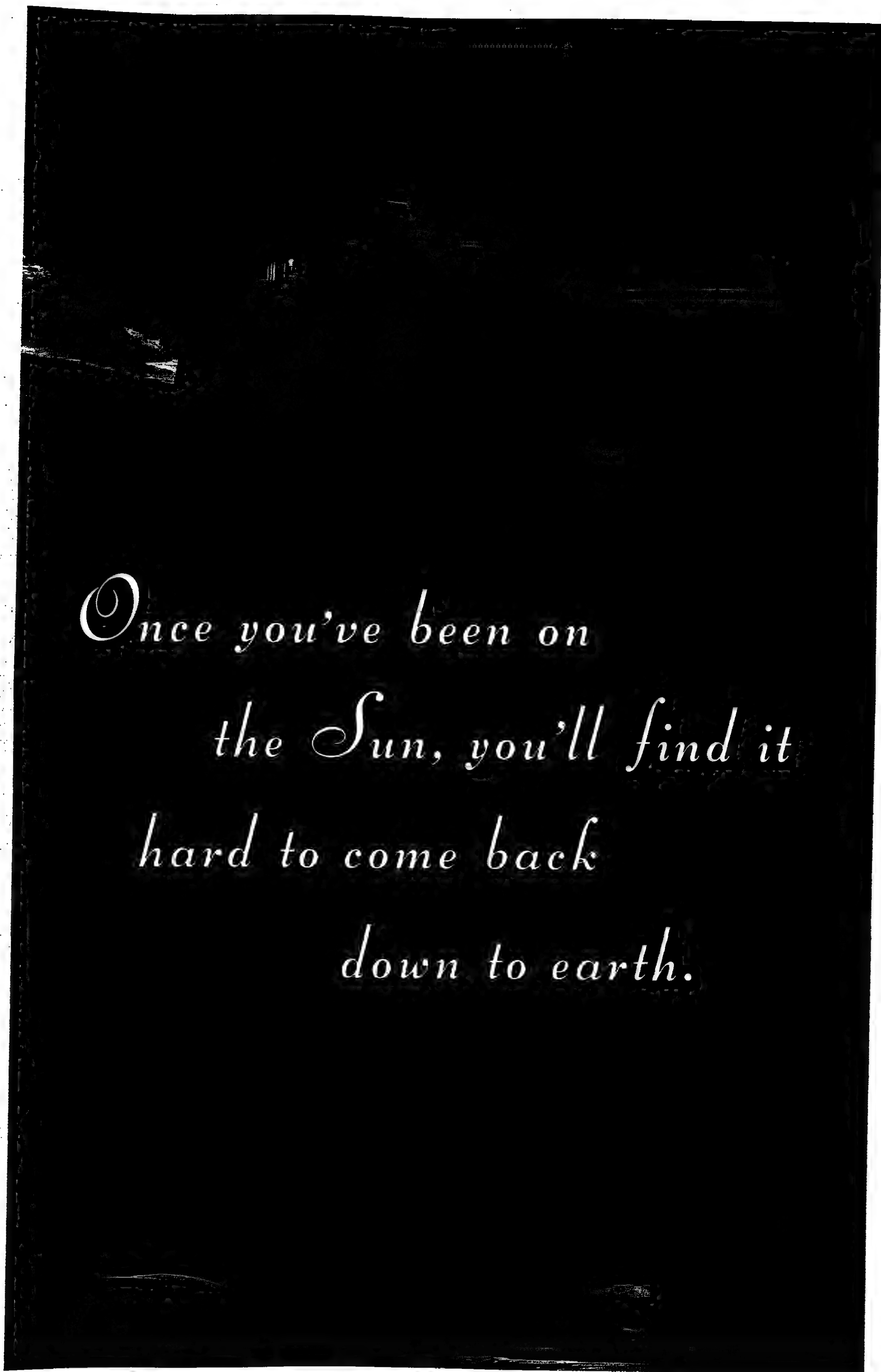
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*Once you've been on  
the Sun, you'll find it  
hard to come back  
down to earth.*

 PRINCESS CRUISES





## THEATRE

What explains the allure of *The Wind in the Willows*, now back for the fifth time?



## JAZZ

Dave Brubeck celebrates his 75th birthday, and the rise in his reputation among the buffs

## THE TIMES ARTS



## OPERA

Simon Rattle conducts a superb period instrument performance of *Così fan tutte*



## TOMORROW

Taste-maker to the whole globe: Aaron Spelling celebrates his 3,000th TV programme

THEATRE: Lennon, the surprisingly good musical; and Toad, the mysteriously successful show

## You can feel his disease

Come Together  
Man in the Moon

THE surviving Beatles allegedly think this new play sounds sick. That will probably pull in some extra punters. *Come Together* is a curious variation on the biographical rock musical. Writer Murray Woodfield is probing the psyche of the nobody, Mark "Catcher In The Rye" Chapman, who shot John Lennon 15 years ago this month. In practice the play steers well clear of being sick, although Chapman is patently far from well, chatting away to insane-looking Little People who come out of the walls.

In fact, this turns out to be a rather good fringe show with a seemingly countless young cast, and Woodfield's direction copes admirably with some of the mighty challenges of his material.

Reuben Gershon, hardly attempting a Liverpool accent, oddly captures the essence of Lennon through a fractional tilting of the head and the lift of an eyebrow. From the spiral staircase, he delivers retrospectively pointed out-takes of Lennon's comments — about gun-wielding American loonies and the like — in a subtly deadened style. In his sky-blue cell, Lucius Robinson's pallidly fleshy, glitter-eyed Chapman is mildly disturbing, and Martin T. Sherman looks credibly like Robinson's younger self.

Woodfield's soot through Chapman's formative experiences and mental instability turns up a few corny lines. He also suggests a plethora of psychological causes for the murder, from Chapman being hypnotised by the CIA to being chucked by an early girlfriend, from seeing John Lennon as the enemy of Christianity to obsessive identification with the man.

But the drama is informative and the episodic structuring, including trial-style snippets of acquaintances' angles on Chapman, is snappily executed. The stylisedness is given a great boost by the young Big Apple Band, including commendable vocals from Hannah Robinson.

KATE BASSETT



Jeremy Sinden takes over as a serenely smug Toad in Alan Bennett's enjoyable adaptation of *The Wind in the Willows*, now back for a fifth time

## Messing about again

Alan Bennett's toad-in has moved 400 yards from the National, losing some of its more exotic stage trickery in the process. But since this is the fifth time since 1990 that the piece has come to brighten London's bleak midwinter, we can hardly accuse it of losing its appeal. On the contrary, I am beginning to wonder if Bennett has not stumbled on a seasonal substitute for *Peter Pan*. If he were to do what Barrie did for Great Ormond Street, and will his royalties to an all-English cause like the Mole Sanctuary or the Rat Defence League, we could be sure of it.

The show clearly excites affectionate, protective feelings, and not only among children. Back in 1990 a fellow critic wrote that he "would rather have Mickey Mouse any day than that old Rat", and went on to quote Jonathan Miller to the effect that Kenneth Grahame had created "a Thames-side story of country-house fascism". His editor was reputedly so enraged that the critic found himself out of a job, and has ever since been cadging pennies from sneering thespians beneath Waterloo Bridge.

So what is the piece's special allure? Ask me another. I have now seen it three times, with three different casts. As Toad, a gurgling, preening, Griff Rhys Jones has given way to a bloated, slightly camp Des Barri, and Barrie to a serenely smug Jeremy Sinden. Rat, formerly Richard Briers doing an affable Terry-Thomas imitation, is now a conically prim Christopher Strain, and Badger, once a crusty Michael Bryant, is the imposing Francis Matthews. And still I cannot fully explain the piece's success.

Partly, the reasons may be negative. At least *The Wind in the Willows* does not offer a cricket, a boxer or, worst of all, an Aussie soap star in some ghastly travesty of the Brothers Grimm. But they must also be positive. It is that the admirable Bennett has taken pains to please both those who are giving the show as a Christmas treat and those who are receiving it. For the children there is a story, well and warily told, about animals with obvious human parallels. There is the

The Wind in the Willows  
Old Vic

big, bumptious show-off from next door who gets his comeuppance, although not as painful a one as at first seems likely. There is the small, sly, snuffling creature who achieves manhood by outwitting the baddies and putting them to flight. There is a nice elder brother, Rat, and a good grandfather, Badger. And they all end up as snugly ensconced in Toad Hall as toddlers in a toy-cupboard.

For the grown-ups there are nice jokes, culminating in Toad's promise to use his ancient pile, which the weasels plan to turn into a sleazy leisure complex, for an arts festival that will offer not only opera and chamber music, "but across with one-man shows". There is also, I suppose, the comfort of seeing a world innocently divided into Them and Us, as it was in the 1940s or 1950s. We breeze along the river or tramp through the fields saying "good show", and meaning it. They skinn in long, spivvy coats out of the Wild Wood to cheat, grab and redevelop.

But it is possible to get too earnest about it all. In 1990 another colleague went so far as to call the piece "a complacent tale of boy animals together, evading work, adulthood and heterosexuality". I suppose she was thinking of Rat and Badger's competitive obsession ("Your little toes are nice and warm, are they?") with the Mole tad. But somehow I did not get the impression that the dads in the first-night audience were hankering either for pederasty in the school showers or for the Mosleyite Utopia that Miller

*The Wind in the Willows* may be as open to Freudian analysis as *Peter Pan* itself, but does it matter? Not, surely, to most of us. Myself, I found the hopping bunnies and carting field mice as irksome in Jeremy Sams's revival as in Nicholas Hytner's original production, and was less entranced than before by Mark Thompson's set, which cannot dip, rise, heave and swivel as colourfully as the Vic as in the Olivier. Yet it was still fun, and fun because it was fun because it was fun.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## A platform to raise the roof

## OPERA

Così fan tutte  
Festival Hall

WHEN is a concert performance not a concert performance? Here there was a stage not so much behind the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment as in among it: the RFH platform felt like a theatre. The all-star cast, nearly all of them long experienced in their roles, could hardly have helped "performing" even if they had been told not to, and perform they did. No director was credited — music to the ears of the anti-producer brigade — but one was left wishing that some of the countless *Così* stagings in the theatre had been half as accomplished as this.

As in all good performances, the first act was very, very funny, with Don Alfonso and Despina virtually taking over; then there came that perceptible "click" 20 minutes into the second act when it suddenly wasn't funny any more, and the two pairs of lovers came into their own. Mind you, Ann Murray and Thomas Allen would take over the world given half a chance, and with my full backing.

Murray's combination of quite broad vocal effects with dead straight poker-face made her Despina a chambermaid from hell. Allen, in succulent voice, lavished on Alfonso's music the expressive portamento he used to field when singing Guglielmo, and so made the philosopher twice as dangerous — suave, implacable.

The lovers came back fighting. There was no hint of effort or strain in Hillevi Martinpelto's ravishingly pure-toned Fiordiligi: she has always

sung beautifully, but surely never quite as beautifully as this. Alison Hagley has found a new, gingery tang to lighten her bright soprano — the pair blended perfectly — and found an element of brazenness that added a new and rather disturbing dimension to Dorabella.

If Gerald Finley felt in any way awed at sharing the stage with so famous an ex-Guglielmo, he showed it not. Since the text was given complete, Kurt Streit not only charmed with his honeyed *Aura amorosa*, but dazzled us with a fluid, easy *Ah, lo veggio*, always the most damaging cut in brand-X performances.

But the true architect of this evening of Mozartian heaven was of course Simon Rattle. Brisk, energising tempos for the most part — but with a rapt *Per pietà* that would have brought a nod of approval from Klemperer himself — yet never so brisk that there was no room for expressive nuance. Meaningful pauses were held, soft staccato chords "placed" with rare wit. The performance was rich in detail. The OAE played brilliantly, fleet string articulation, deliciously gurgling woodwind. And there's a recording on the way...

RODNEY MILNES

## Granite on ivory

## CONCERT

RLPO/Altrichter  
Philharmonic Hall,  
Liverpool

GRAHAM Fitkin, the 32-year-old "composer in association" to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, has written a new piano concerto — although you might not have guessed it from its impenetrable title, *Granite*, or from a programme-note for this premiere that mentioned neither piano nor concerto. It is reminiscent of Gershwin, Bartók, Prokofiev — launched on heavily percussive rhythms at the bottom of the keyboard and propelled on a succession of conventionally minimalist and virtuosic gestures.

Entertaining, well-written (except in a disappointingly unresourceful piano part, played by Peter Donohoe), it was ultimately inflated in a clumsy display of heroism in the manner of John Adams. From the beginning of the concert it was clear that Tybalt would die a particularly nasty death before the end. Mozart's Six German Dances, K509;

which scarcely need conducting at all, were executed with chopping motions which, had the RLPO responded in kind, would surely have done the music no little violence. The Czech conductor Petr Altrichter is brilliantly effective where high drama is concerned, as at the warring beginning of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*. He is less interesting when it comes to sustaining lyrical episodes. The final intimacies of *Romeo and Juliet* were pale in comparison with the lurid brutality of the death of Tybalt.

GERALD LARNER

## Brubeck is back in the fold

That astute chronicler of social gaffes, H.M. Bateman, was famous for cartoons such as *The Guest Who Called the Poté de Foie Gras Potted Meat* or *The Man Who Asked for a Whisky and Soda in the Pump Room at Bath*. Bateman never got round to drawing *The Man Who Played a Dave Brubeck Record at the Jazz Buff's Ball*, but you can visualise the scene.

No jazz musician of the past 40 years, with the possible exception of Miles Davis, has enjoyed as broad a public following as Brubeck: none that I can think of has aroused quite as much derision in jazz circles themselves. Just as the very mention of Trollope provokes condescending looks from English Literature students, few of whom have bothered to read a word of the Barchester novels, so Brubeck prompts similar expressions from the jazzers.

Yet the American pianist and composer, who celebrates his 75th birthday with two concerts at the Barbican this weekend, seems likely to have the last word after all. Not only does his group continue to pull in concert hall audiences around the world (he still plays some 80 one-nighters a year); his reputation is slowly being reassessed by the jazz establishment. "It's funny," he says. "All of sudden it's OK to say you enjoy my music. Before, you could like me, but you couldn't talk about it."

The cynical explanation, of course, is that any musician who reaches his eighth decade is bound to be treated as a grand old man. But Brubeck's rehabilitation goes deeper than that. For one thing, a swathe of reissues and compilations has given critics the opportunity to listen to his



Dave Brubeck, at 75, is enjoying a renaissance of his career

music afresh without being distracted by the controversies of the 1950s. The most imposing of all the vintage sets — Columbia's elegantly packaged four-CD, 45-year retrospective, *Time Signatures* — is likely to remain one of the half-dozen outstanding reissues of the decade.

And if the old discs are, one by one, coming back into circulation Brubeck's recent recordings for Telarc show him passing through a remarkably productive phase in his autumn years. *Nightshift* was an inspired live session at New York's Blue Note club, while *Just You, Just Me* found him making his first solo recording in nearly 40 years.

The latest arrival, *Young Lions & Old Tigers*, is a delight. Not content with performing with a list of guest artists from Michel Brecker to James Moody, Roy Hargrove, Joshua Redman and Joe Lovano, Brubeck concocted melodies based on their names. Brecker was handed a waltz, Lovano a tango. Hargrove an hypnotic ballad. In traditional jazz spirit, most of the performances were

committed to posterity with the minimum of preparation: some of the pieces are first takes. "Each musician was allotted two hours in the studio," Brubeck says, "and each of them sailed through it in about ten minutes."

One ancient source of anti-Brubeck sentiment, apart from his distinctive two-handed technique, is the sheer scale of his quarter's commercial success. Any musician who reaches a broad audience is liable to be accused of selling out. The enormous worldwide sales for *Take Five*, the 5/4 classic usually attributed to Brubeck, but actually written by the quarter's lyrical saxophonist Paul Desmond, was too much for some purists.

Brubeck's own background worked against him as well. Here was a college graduate and former student of Darius Milhaud who had been raised in a small town in California, far from the crucibles of New York, Chicago, Kansas City or New Orleans. His use of polytonality, polyrhythms and counterpoint also led some detractors to write him off as a cerebral interloper.

But his own account of his formative years soon dispels that preconception. Although his mother was an accomplished classical piano teacher who had travelled to London to study with Myra Hess, his father was a ranch manager, and much of the young Brubeck's childhood was spent on horseback, helping to round up cattle.

He has described how his interest in rhythmic variation first arose, not in the classroom, but on the ranch, when he was herding livestock over long distances. As his mount and the cattle settled into a steady trot, he would pass the time by improvising melodies above the rhythms he could hear around him.

Since the 1960s he has turned increasingly to composing orchestral works, many with a religious theme. The most devout and unassuming of artists, he admits that he had resigned himself to quietly "coasting out" his final years. But with respected jazz historians leading a reappraisal of his work, his self-confidence gradually rose. He remembers, too, the evening five years ago when he attended a party for the wife of the jazz impresario, George Wein.

"We were all asked to perform a tune, so I played *I Married an Angel*. When I finished young guys said how much they had listened to my music when they were growing up. I had passed through a period when it almost felt like I was being written out of history. Now I thought: 'Boy, I haven't been forgotten.' Suddenly there's more to do than ever before."

CLIVE DAVIS

• Dave Brubeck appears with the LSO at the Barbican, Silk Street EC2 0J71-638 4H1 tomorrow night (7-9pm) and Sun (3pm)



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## POP 1

Sincerity by the spade, but not much innovation on Garth Brooks's latest album



## POP 2

... whereas Van Morrison seeks fresh inspiration by delving into jazz standards



## POP 3

But it is humpin' and heavy-breathing business as usual on R. Kelly's latest



## POP 4

Meanwhile, and guaranteed to go the distance, Frank has got a Christmas record out

NEW ALBUMS: David Sinclair finds Garth Brooks roaming the same ol' prairie

# Horse of a familiar hue

## GARTH BROOKS

*Fresh Horses* (Capitol 8 32080)

HE MAY have a relatively modest profile in this country, but Garth Brooks is the biggest selling act of the 1990s. And yet *Fresh Horses* is an album of surprisingly limited scope and ambition, a 38-minute set designed to consolidate rather than extend his appeal.

The key to Brooks is his unerring sincerity. "I said a little prayer tonight/Before I came on stage... I asked the good Lord in heaven: Let me treat the music right," he sings at the start of *The Old Stuff*, as if saying grace before tucking into the meat of the song. And he remains the only bona fide country star who would contemplate doing a cover of a full-on Aerosmith rocker, *The Fever*, albeit with a significantly toned down lyric.

There are plenty of handsome, clean-cut tunes, such as *Rollin'* and *The Beaches of Cheyenne*, both of which boast nice harmony vocals from Trisha Yearwood. But the greetings-card sentiments of songs such as *Cowboys and Angels*, *She's Evergreen* and a preposterous coo-colic ode called *Ireland* are likely to try the patience of all but the most sympathetically credulous listeners.

## VAN MORRISON WITH GEORGIE FAME &amp; FRIENDS

*How Long Has This Been Going On* (Epic/Verve 529 136)

ROUNDING off a year in which he has had "more awards than hot dinners" as he rather tactlessly put it when being offered both at Q magazine's prize-winning bash last month, Van Morrison has recorded a jazz album.

Knocked out during a single day of recording at Ronnie Scott's club last May, and sprung on the market without warning or explanation, *How Long Has This Been Going On* is a collection of standards from some of the trustiest pens in the business: George and Ira Gershwin, Johnny Mercer, Moose Allison, Louis Jordan, Lester Young and others. The band, led by the polished Georgie Fame, are a similarly gill-edged bunch, including trumpeter Guy Barker and saxophonists Alan Skidmore and Pee Wee Ellis. Whether romping through the

relaxed mid-tempo swing of *The New Symphony Sid* or savouring the slow, late-night mood of the title track, they make it all sound easy, but wonderfully spontaneous and graceful.

The weak link, unfortunately, is Morrison himself. Although a visionary songwriter and a distinctively soulful performer, his ragged diction, approximate phrasing and often wildly suspect pitch fail to meet the exacting technical standards required in the world of straight jazz. He holds his own on blues numbers such as *Early in the Morning* and *Blues in the Night*, and dispatches a handful of his own songs, including an erratic version of *Moonance*, with an air of brisk authority. But elsewhere his performances are blustery and unconvincing, and when he and Fame attempt to sing *Sack O' Woe*, the spectre of the karaoke parlour looms.

## JOE ELY

*Letter to Laredo* (Transatlantic/Castle Communications TRA 222)

A MAN with roots in the country music of Texas and a history of excursions into the rock'n'roll badlands, Joe Ely has gone Spanish on *Letter to Laredo*, a predominantly acoustic album which mixes the languid slide guitar and dobro sound of Lloyd Maines with the rapid trills and crisp arpeggios of a superb flamenco guitarist known as Teye. Aided by vocal contributions from Bruce Springsteen (two numbers), Jimmie Dale Gilmore and Raul Malo (of the Mavericks), Ely conjures extraordinary tales of Mexican rooster fights and desperadoes on the run, and of love found in a Texan motel room and lost in cities all across Europe. An unusual and understated album, but full of character and blessed with a poignant charm.

## R. KELLY

*R. Kelly* (Jive CHIP 166)

TRADITIONALLY, soul sex gods have tended to be avuncular characters with film-trailer voices, people such as Barry White and Isaac Hayes. But 26-year-old R. Kelly has updated the role, bringing big trousers and a modern, swingbeat sound to the genre while generally steering clear of the heavy breathing routines



An Aerosmith cover aside, Garth Brooks is content to amble along on *Fresh Horses*

His commitment to the wholesale seduction of the world's womanhood is nevertheless absolute, and the follow-up to his five million-selling album, *12 Play*, is plainly the work of a man with a one-track mind. "Every day and every night, humpin' and bouncin' all I wanna do," he insists in *Hump Bounce*,

which is about as euphemistic as it gets.

The problem is that, although a gifted singer and a sensational keyboard player, Kelly is far too busy slow-grooving and schmoozing his latest love interest ever to open up and really sing. Still, you have to admire his *je ne sais quoi*. "Girl you look just like

my cars, I wanna wax it," he announces on *You Remind Me of Something*. Do some guys have all the best chat-up lines or what?

● FIVE of the songs on *Queen's* album *Made in Heaven* have been recorded before, not two as I stated in my review of November 3. Freddie Mercury died on November 24, 1991, not that October

## Let me take you down, 'cause I'm going to

Damn you, marketing men, says Caitlin Moran.

Why couldn't you let John Lennon rest in peace?

In an age in which newspapers devote regular columns to the art of advertising, record companies squabble over whose record is going to be used in jeans commercials, and albums bear stickers with "As used on the Happy Cow butter advert" so large that they obscure the band's name, it was always obvious that the real pop "heroes" were the marketing directors. A good marketing campaign counts for far more than a good song, witness the dizzying, to the point of nausea, rise of Robson and Jerome. What a *dream* marketing assignment — two actors in a hit television series premiere their first single in front of 12 million viewers, and the song flies out of the shops and into the No 1 slot for ten weeks running.

But, in the quest for the biggest and most spectacular marketing campaign ever, some sticky-fingered suit has pulled the ultimate trick — digging up dead pop icons. Whispers of a "new" Beatles single were heard last year, but it was Queen who were first in the shops with *Made in Heaven*, a fair-to-middling album which trashed Queen's reputation within 12 tracks. We loved Freddie Mercury because he was so alive, rampant and gobbling up the charts whole; nostrils flaring as he squealed the high notes; body sweating as he bounced across the stage. The necessarily sombre *Heaven*, with its maudlin videos and respectful shots of Freddie, has Queen bowing out in a tearful mist of regret and longing, rather than the blaze of fireworks and light so befitting their past. Surely, had Mercury wanted a poignant end, he wouldn't have shut himself away as soon as he fell ill and began to crumble.

Likewise, the Beatles. The four most famous artists in the history of pop have, for a relatively small amount of money (oh, come on, how many millions does one really need?), trashed the only blemish-free career ever recorded. Treating John Lennon's voice as a copyrighted "sound" and his songs as playthings to be tampered with, we now have a reheated cold collation with its *You're Being Too Subtle* video ("Look, a walrus. Look, a Blue Meanie. Look, a man who's blown his mind out in a car. And a shot of some traffic lights, which have changed. But what do you mean? What are you getting at?") and three elderly men indulging in buffoonery as their bandmate, cut brutally into the videos, looks on. Calm in black and white, he

is free of all the retching nostalgia and rapid dignity loss.

The irony of all this glory-free, yuppie-remnant hypermarketing is that it loses money. Witness the recent reunion of the Eagles. Sunburnt Americans queued all night to buy \$130 tickets for their shows, while a Best Of compilation made the Eagles, and their record company, very rich indeed. But, a year on, their extensive back catalogue is suffering from sales atrophy. Having

Beatles it was like accidentally tripping over the Taj Mahal — something vast and well-known, and yet incomprehensible until you actually got there and walked around it.

Before, the Beatles were something you would enquire about, and pass on the Beatles infection to someone else. Now the band is shorn of its mystique; who wants something so obvious? Who would hunger to own their back-catalogue now?

Pop is of the moment. Pop is an instant "now!" *Made in Heaven* and *Free as a Bird* and *The Beatles Anthology* aren't a barometer of the times, a celebration or a comfort — the only three things good pop can ever be. They are cold, dry, bloodless charts on a boardroom wall: sheafs of figures, and thick fiscal folders with Queen and Beatles logos stamped on their front. They are recycled milk sold as fresh.

By planning marketing campaigns six months or a year ahead, pop is being fettered, evaluated before it is created, and made to become ruthless and joyless.

Marketing will be the death of pop. John Lennon lived on — and on — until November, 1995, when the remaining Beatles clubbed him to death with video treatments and bank statements.



"I know what it's like to be dead," John Lennon sang, not knowing what the Beatles would do once he was

## Cruel Yule shocking fillers

FULL OF seasonal ill-will? Harboured malice towards a special someone this Yuletide? Then head for the nation's record stores, where there are more festive turkeys to be found in the racks than in the average supermarket freezer cabinet. But shop carefully, using our guide to the certs and no-hopers in the end-of-year novelty single stakes:

(EMI): Sir Cliff's opening salvo from the grandiose *Heathcliff* project proved something of a damp squib, saleswise. Will Livvy-as-Cathy revive his fortunes? Sid Owen and Patsy Palmer, *Better Believe It* (Trinity): Tiresome as Ricky and Bianca in *EastEnders*, the duo are bare-

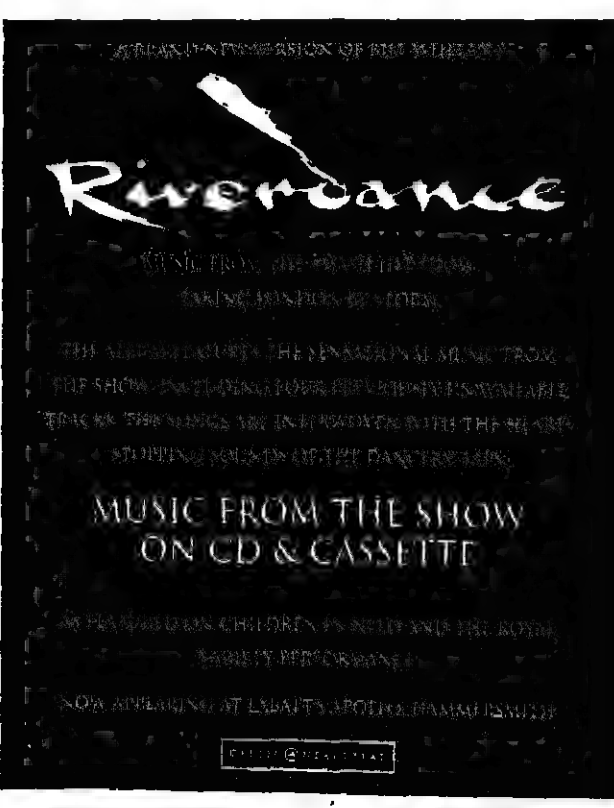
ly more appealing on record. The Coronation Street cast featuring Bill Waddington, *Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life* (EMI): The "joke" is that Waddington plays arch-grump Percy Sugden in the northern soap. Haha!

ALAN JACKSON

## TOP TEN ALBUMS

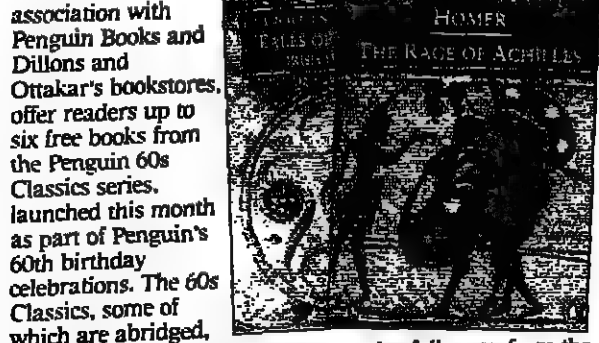
- 1 Robson & Jerome... Robson & Jerome (RCA)
- 2 (What's the Story) Morning Glory?... Oasis (Creation)
- 3 Anthology 1... Beatles (Apple)
- 4 The Memory of Trees... Enya (WEA)
- 5 Made in Heaven... Queen (Parlophone)
- 6 Something to Remember... Madonna (Maverick)
- 7 Life... Simply Red (East West)
- 8 Love Songs... Elton John (Rocket)
- 9 Different Class... Pulp (Island)
- 10 Up all Night... East 17 (London)

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## Free Penguin 60s Classics

The Times, in association with Penguin Books and Dillons and Ottakar's bookstores, offer readers up to six free books from the Penguin 60s Classics series, launched this month as part of Penguin's 60th birthday celebrations. The 60s Classics, some of which are abridged, some complete works, follow on from the first successful series of Penguin's 60s paperbacks, also included in this offer, which flew straight to the top of the bestseller lists. This gives you a choice of up to 120 titles to choose from subject to availability at participating Dillons and Ottakar's stores. The launch of the new 60s Classics series, a full list appeared in *The Times* on Saturday, offers you some of world's greatest literature, and the original 60s series offers such titles as Edith Wharton's *Madame De Treymes*. To get a free book, present the voucher, below, at a participating Dillons or Ottakar's bookstore. More vouchers will appear this week. For your local participating Dillons bookstore, one of Britain's largest booksellers, call: 0121 7038114.



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Robson and Jerome, *I Believe/Up On The Roof* (RCA): The nice *Soldier*, *Soldier* stars may be No 1 already, but they will take some shifting as granny hits the high street. Michael Barrymore, *Too Much for One Heart* (EMI): Domestic life as soap opera. "Britain's best-loved entertainer" dedicates this ballad to his manager-wife Cheryl. Frank Bruno, *Eye Of The Tiger* (RCA): Survivor's 1982 Rocky theme is reworked by Stock, Aiken & Waterman. Iridesome, if you know what I mean, Harry? All and Kibibi Campbell, *Somethin' Stupid* (EMI): Frank 'n' Nancy's vintage hit is reprised by the UB40 frontman and his own daughter, barely out of kindergarten. Lorna Luft and Judy Garland, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* (Carlton): Technology, if not good taste, allows the late diva's less celebrated daughter to make a pitch for the charts. The Beatles, *Free as a Bird* (Parlophone): This massively hyped relic from the Apple vaults has polarised opinion. Some think it's awful. Others say it's sort of OK. Queen, *A Winter's Tale* (Parlophone): From the album *Made in Heaven* — a collection of material featuring the late Freddie Mercury — this is described by *Music Week* as, ahem, "balsy and uplifting". Cliff Richard and Olivia Newton-John, *Had to Be*









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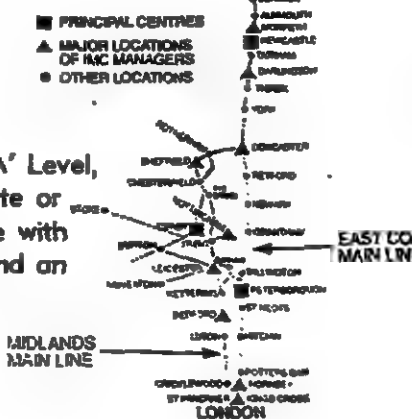
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Salary will be on the scale for Lecturer Grade A (£15,154 - £19,848 p.a.) or Grade B (£20,677 - £26,430 p.a.) according to qualifications and relevant experience. Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Office (Academic Section), The University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, tel: 0113 233 5771, e-mail: s.m.hartley@leeds.ac.uk

World Wide Web address: <http://www.adm.leeds.ac.uk/jobadvert/index.html> quoting the reference number 4137.

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## EDUCATION



Chess club at the Manchester Grammar, where modular examinations — recognised as less demanding — are now used for maths and the sciences

## Best for the brightest?

The problem of poorly motivated pupils becoming bored and failing to realise their true potential is not new in schools. What is new is that this problem now affects some of the most able. There are pupils for whom the target of three A grades at A level (which is a passport to any university in the country) represents no real challenge. The higher challenges which schools have been able to provide in the past have now all but disappeared.

In the debate about whether standards at A level are rising or falling one thing is agreed: there are now more top grades awarded than ever before. It follows that for the most able it is easier to obtain a top grade than ever before. It is easier still now that more and more modular schemes are taken, as all the uncertainties and pressures of a terminal examination are removed.

At the Manchester Grammar School, modular examinations are used for mathematics and the sciences. By the start of the upper sixth year a pupil may be more than half way through each subject, with sufficiently good results in each module to guarantee that only a modest effort is needed in the rest of the course to produce three A grades. The demotivating effect of this situation is clear. It becomes all the clearer when a further factor is taken into account: it is widely believed that the latest syllabuses, and that includes all modular syllabuses, are inherently less demanding in content and conceptual depth than the syllabuses of five, ten or 20 years ago.

Of course there have always been pupils for whom A level was easy, so in that sense the problem is not new. However, in the past A level was not the limit of what schools could offer to their very brightest. Oxford and Cambridge used to have their own entrance examinations which required study

Many of our ablest students are increasingly ill-served by schools and universities. Neil Sheldon offers a solution

way beyond A level. The Cambridge "STEP" papers of today are far less demanding, and in any case they may be avoided completely in many subjects and at many colleges. At Oxford, the last traditional entrance examination has just been taken. From next year we will have various short *ad hoc* tests taken by candidates called for interview. In the past, many bright A-level candidates would take Special Papers; examinations requiring a deep

er understanding of the A-level syllabus. But the universities have stopped taking any notice of Special Papers and as a consequence they have almost died out.

The loss is not felt just at school, of course. If the brightest are going to the best universities knowing less, and having had less intellectual challenge, then standards at these universities are falling, too — as conversations with many university teachers confirm.

The fact that in this country we now educate more of our young people to A level than ever before, and that more people take degrees than ever before, is to be applauded. But the fact that this has been achieved at the expense of the standards achieved by the most able is a national disgrace. It is also quite unnecessary.

The message of the last 20 or 30 years in education is that standards are set from above and not from below. Good

universities can offer highly regarded degrees, set correspondingly high standards for entry, and attract high quality applicants. That is, good universities can drive standards up. Oxford and Cambridge used to play this role particularly well, but in recent years, motivated perhaps by a misguided egalitarianism, they appear to have abdicated. On the other hand, a system in which universities are driven primarily by the need to maximise student numbers (and "burns on seas" is one of the commonest phrases on a don's lips) can only result in ever lower entry standards. The analogy with the supermarket's battle for market share driving down prices is close.

Three A grades at A level is no longer a challenge for many pupils

creasingly, the purpose of sixth-form education is university entrance, and few pupils — even the very brightest — will want to go substantially beyond what is needed to get into their chosen universities. It is only human nature to settle for three A grades if higher achievement is neither recognised nor rewarded.

It would be unfair, however, to place all the blame and all the burden for change on the universities. The "burns on seas" marketplace is the Government's fault, and only a change in Government policy can put it right. But, as is so often the case, a change in

policy would require the Government to recognise the obvious.

By the age of 16, entrants to sixth-form education differ enormously both in their potential and in their achievements. By 18, on entry to university, the differences are greater still. And as the numbers going to university increase so these differences are increased still further. Despite these blatantly obvious facts, policy over the last decade has been to make the post-18 sector more uniform: the distinction between polytechnic and university has been lost, many lesser colleges have been given university status, all universities have had a financial lever applied to them to maximise student numbers irrespective of quality, and (a self-inflicted wound) Oxford and Cambridge have worked hard to shed their premier status.

The solution is, I believe, as obvious as the problem. Government policy should recognise a diversity of need in education, both at university level and as a consequence of a premier league of universities, perhaps ten or a dozen in number, which would demand higher standards of achievement for entry and award higher standards of degree. These universities would be funded not merely by reference to the numbers of students, nor by their research performance, but according to the quality of their degrees.

These premier league universities would be able to demand higher standards for entry, perhaps four A levels (not including general studies), revised special papers, or — dare one say it — their own entrance examinations. Such a change would disadvantage nobody, but it would do wonders for the declining motivation of our brightest young men and women — and develop a major national asset.

The author is *Surmester* of the Manchester Grammar School

## Beam me up, Mary and Joseph

Jane French welcomes the season of angels and shepherds

As the end of term approaches, spare a thought for the teachers who have spent weeks desperately seeking new angles on the Christmas theme — to their cost. For, over the years, I have attended scores of Nativity plays, concerts and services, of sometimes startling originality and dramatic impact, where the strain of the creative process has told on the face of every teacher.

Take the *Star Trek* Nativity play, conjured up by a deputy head after 20 years, had developed an allergy to shepherds and kings. The costumes were slick, the scenery drew gasps of admiration, the lighting was of a professional standard. Yet the parents complained: it wasn't "Christmassy" enough. And was it really in the best possible taste to "beam up" the Christ child like that?

Or the politically correct "celebration", scripted by an exhausted staff committee, and designed to incorporate aspects of "all faiths and none". Three months' hard work ended up, embarrassingly, with two religious conversions and a member of staff on sick-leave. Then there was the carol service featuring "original words and music" by the GCSE music group. The rhythmic complexity of the music defeated all but one parent — an opera singer — and the lyrics of the last song bordered on the blasphemous. The Head of Music scurried to his car afterwards, pleading a sudden onset of flu, rather than face the parents over the muffled wine and mince pies.

One sympathises with teachers. It must be galling, when you have tried so hard to make it fresh and interesting, when you have stressed in letters home that attendance is voluntary although all are most welcome. And when you are still aware of mumbled mutterings and whispered recriminations.

Yet I suspect that each of the aforementioned fiascos could have been avoided. For, when non-Christian families have the right to opt out, what most parents want is



Time to find a doll to audition for the part of Jesus

tradition, plain and simple. We will support no end of obscure plays, well-meaning inter-faith gatherings and gallantly original musical performances — throughout the school year. But what is needed at Christmas is a straight-down-the-line Nativity play, a service with candles, and carols we all know.

Some mothers actually enjoy all the playground speculation about who will play Mary this time, whose doll will be chosen for Jesus, and whether the school will use Mrs So-and-So's live donkey again, after what happened last year. The arty-crafty contingent really want to give up time they haven't got to help with the costumes and scenery. It's an integral part of Christmas to shiver in a candle-lit church, straining to see the words on the service sheet. And for sheer theatricality the grand processions favoured by my children's school every year in a vast cathedral take some beating. It is pleasantly nerve-racking to watch the procession set off, knowing it is under-rehearsed and that many of the younger children are still unreliable when it comes to left and right. And fun, as you listen to the fathers bellowing their way through *Good King Wenceslas*, to lay odds on whether everyone will arrive at the chancel steps as planned or, as in the run-

through, suddenly perform a version of *Strip the Willow* half way down the nave.

Admittedly, a traditional Christmas must be boring for the teachers, especially the infant department, who are usually the ones saddled with mounting that least flexible of yuletide traditions, the Nativity play. It is doubtless tedious, coaching aggressive angels in their glad tidings, reminding generations of shepherds that they must not forget to *hand over* their lambs, and emphasising that the inn-keeper must not say "Come in", as he has been threatening to do since it raised a laugh in rehearsal.

But the point is that the Christmas story is new to each intake of children. For this reason alone, it deserves its annual retelling. The school Nativity play with its gift-dropping kings and tongue-tied angels, the carol service with its squeaky violins and mumbled readings, lay a foundation of religious and cultural knowledge from which, later, may emerge understanding. The knowledge that our children are being thus civilised and enriched should sustain parents everywhere. As we spruce up our baby dolls to audition for the part of Jesus, or scour the shops for sandals and striped towels. Or, in my case, prepare to risk hypothermia again in that vast cathedral.

David Charter has encouraging news for GNVQ students aiming to get on a degree course

## Taking a vocation to university

Students on vocational courses fearing they will be frowned upon by universities can take heart from figures showing they are more likely to receive an offer of a place than A-level candidates.

Universities received 9,555 applications from students taking an advanced General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ) last year, and 89 per cent were made at least one offer of a place.

This compared with the general offer rate of 86.5 per cent of all 393,000 students using the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Preliminary findings from UCAS suggest about 60 per cent of all GNVQ candidates found a place this October.

However, there is still concern that GNVQs are not welcome at some traditional universities (as distinct from the former polytechnics). Lord Henley, the minister responsible for vocational qualifications, this week said more had to be done before GNVQs — introduced in 1992 — took their full place in higher education, but he praised them for encouraging

said advanced GNVQs were not a "soft option" but added: "Some older universities need to be convinced of their worth."

GNVQs are available in a growing range of subjects including business, leisure and tourism, art and design, health and social care, manufacturing, construction and the built environment, hospitality and catering, and science.

More are being added this year and next year, including engineering and media.

They test "competences" as well as knowledge, with each subject consisting of eight mandatory units, four further optional units and three "core skills" — communication, numeracy and information technology.

Traditional universities worry whether they involve enough essay-writing for students to learn how to develop arguments. But UCAS research shows that in the main, GNVQs prepare students well for university work.

However, the variety of skills sought by universities means the choice of a range of optional units would strengthen the GNVQ candidate's



Learning curve: pupils on a GNVQ art course at Redborne Upper School in Bedfordshire

problems for large schools and colleges but can be difficult in small sixth forms.

Tony Higgins, UCAS chief executive, said small GNVQ centres "could restrict opportunities for students to progress" to some courses.

Only time will tell whether this means universities will look unfavourably on applicants from small sixth forms. For now, the better university offer rate for GNVQ applicants seems to reflect their targeting of institutions likely to treat them favourably.

Judith Compton, project manager of the GATE project (GNVQs and Access To Higher Education), said: "GNVQ students often want to apply to a related degree or HND and these are generally based at the post-1992 universities, so

GNVQ applicants to look at those universities."

She added: "There is a fair amount of opposition to change in the system but some of the traditional universities are looking at GNVQ applicants, although they do expect them to have a parallel to high-grade A level."

The top mark at advanced GNVQ, a distinction, is said to be equivalent to two A levels at grades A or B.

All GNVQ students applying through UCAS before the deadline for 1996 university entry of December 15 should know that the GATE directory is essential reading. It lists 6,000 courses at British universities which accept students with vocational qualifications.

Ms Compton added: "The nature of degree provision is

the more highly theoretical degrees would be less appropriate for GNVQ students. It is a matter of students doing research across the breadth of provision to be sure they are applying to the right kinds of course."

GNVQ students can also take heart from the forecasts that their qualification structure is a blueprint for the future.

Sir Ron Dearing, the Government's chief curriculum adviser, is developing plans to broaden education from ages 16 to 19, which could see all teenagers tested on "core skills".

He also wants more common elements in academic and vocational courses, so youngsters can "mix and match" the most appropriate



## Executive leather collection

For readers who enjoy quality, *The Times* offers a collection of wallets and diaries, hand-stitched using the finest leathers. All items are available in black, embossed with *The Times*. Make your selection from the following:

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# Russians fear the power of Courier on Moscow clay

FROM DAVID MILLER IN MOSCOW

THE Davis Cup, like the Ryder Cup, has the essence of the truest form of sport: playing for honour and your country as opposed to playing for money. Boris Yeltsin awarded Andrei Chesnokov the Order of Courage for his remarkable fifth-set victory in the final match of the semi-final tie against Germany.

A distraught, tearful Michael Stich, having missed nine match points, was inconsolable. The Davis Cup extends sporting emotions, beyond normal limits.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, 21, the Russian ranked No 6 in world tennis and already the winner of nearly £2 million in prize-money, yesterday expressed the doubt that Pete Sampras was truly the top singles player for the United States in the final this year, which begins here today in the 1990 Olympic indoor stadium. The pressure on Sampras in the opening match may be the worst that he has known this year.

The singles draw for the opening day has paired Chesnokov against Sampras, the Wimbledon and United States champion. "I think [Jim] Courier is much stronger [on clay]", Kafelnikov said, "and he should be the most feared."

If the tie should depend on the fifth match, Courier, ranked No 3, the French champion of 1991-92, will be playing Chesnokov, 29, in the duel between alleged No 2s as Russia bid for their first title. Courier, 25, is there only

because of the withdrawal on Tuesday, by Tom Gullickson, the United States captain, of Andre Agassi, who was still unfit from the chest injury that he sustained in the semi-final against Sweden. Courier had been training here with the team since Sunday. Richey Reneberg, a doubles specialist, was added to the team and will partner Todd Martin tomorrow against Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy.

Yesterday, Courier sat through the post-draw press conference with a wry smile as question after question con-

## ORDER OF PLAY

Russia names first  
TODAY: Singles: A. Chesnokov v P. Sampras, Y. Kafelnikov v J. Courier.  
TOMORROW: Doubles: Kafelnikov and A. Olhovskiy v T. Martin and R. Reneberg.  
SUNDAY: Singles: Kafelnikov v Sampras; Chesnokov v Courier.

cerned the absence of Agassi and whether Michael Chang might have been a better choice. Courier, the clay court specialist, is all too aware of the responsibility resting upon him.

There is an ironic twist in the change of teams. Last year, Russia were over-run in the final in the same stadium by Sweden, who gained a winning 3-0 lead in the doubles... on a synthetic Supreme surface.

The Russians laid an indoor clay surface for the semi-final against Germany, and were fined £16,000 when it was mysteriously over-watered,

causing the start to be delayed an hour. Now, the surface will suit Courier. Asked his opinion, Courier said mischievously that it would depend "how much water gets on it tonight". Sampras openly admitted that it was far from ideal for him, so his opening singles against Chesnokov acquires particular significance.

Kafelnikov said: "The clay gives us a chance, may be the only chance, to win the Cup. I think America are hoping for the singles [to be decisive], not the doubles". There is every probability, therefore, that if Kafelnikov and Olhovskiy win tomorrow, the tie will go the full distance.

It has been humorously suggested that Yeltsin gave Chesnokov's award primarily out of relief at Russia again reaching the final. Last year, Yeltsin had arguably cost Russia their chance when, with Alex Volkov standing 5-5 against Edberg in the fifth set of the opening singles, he arrived at the court with a bevy of political colleagues, interrupting the match for several minutes. The distracted Volkov then lost, young Kafelnikov felt undermined in the second singles and a doubles was lost that should have been won.

Chesnokov, once ranked in the top ten, has enjoyed a remarkable recent revival since his last tournament win, in 1991. He has a dead-pan sense of humour as arch as Jack Benny's, and his maturity, in a tie likely to ride on a tightrope, could be critical.

## Torrance shares lead despite slip

SAM TORRANCE took a share of the lead at the Sun City Million Dollar Challenge with a round of 69, three under par, yesterday. Torrance, the runner-up to Colin Montgomerie, his fellow Scot, in the European order of merit this year, set the pace alongside Corey Pavin, the US Open golf champion.

Pavin, of the United States, scored three birdies in the last four holes to climb the

leaderboard, while Torrance missed a short putt at the last to drop back to level with him.

Montgomerie was struggling at the bottom of the 12-man field after a 79. He was unable to stop pushing shots to the right as he went out in 40. He also found the greens treacherous.

Nick Faldo, the defending champion, fared better with a 72. He was in touch with Torrance until a triple bogey

eight at the par-five 9th. His fourth shot hit the island green but spun back into the water. He took three more to get down and went from three under to level.

Unusually, heavy rain before the tournament toughened the rough to a level normally associated with the US Open. With a gusting wind also troubling the players, there was a premium on straight hitting.



Bisconti, left, the Yokohama goalscorer who hails from Argentina, battles with Pereira, the Verdy defender, a Brazilian. Photograph: Kyodo

## Japanese imports put the world to shame

Rob Hughes, in Tokyo, discovers an approach to cup football that should be noted by the supposed giants of the game

THE National Stadium here, reduced to hollow silence by two of the best teams in the world on Tuesday, responded rapturously to something closer to real football last night. At least here were two sides, the champions of the two halves of the Japanese season, who wanted to perform.

Yokohama Marinos are built around Argentinian imports, but their university and college players are schooled in eager anticipation, and their supporters throw tickertape down from the steep seating as if this were Buenos Aires.

Verdy Kawasaki are Brazilian in nature and intent. They have three players, each of whom have played for their country, and who are part of a 34-strong Brazilian representation among the 14 nationalities performing in the J League. Obviously it is the

yen, in multiples that would take a paragraph to fill, that lures them: but among the full import of 61 foreigners enjoying life in this enthusiastic and burgeoning soccer land, none has anything to do with British football.

As the chorus of drums beat out from one end of the ground, so the match pulsed. It had the priceless element lacking in the match on Tuesday, for the world club championship, between Ajax, of Amsterdam, and Grêmio, of Brazil. The people craved victory, demanded a goal, and received one, a decisive one, from Yokohama, just before the fifth minute.

Matsuda had travelled at speed up the right flank. He was found with a flick of the outside of the boot from Noda, who learnt the fundamentals of the sport at Kokushikan University. Matsuda did what the renowned Ajax players had failed to do, he centred the ball low and with spin.

Yasunaga, barely 19, anticipated the spin, but lost his balance, and there came the split second of fortune.

The ball fell into the path of Bisconti, the Argentinian who was accepting the onus of leading the attack in the absence, through injury, of Medina Bello, his compatriot. Bisconti likes to score his goals, 28 of them in 49 appearances, from hidden positions. Now, he was exposed: but, ten yards from goal, he could not miss. The act of finishing was like a blade into an unprotected back.

Before and after that, Verdy had been the more coherent side. Coached by Nelsinho, another Brazilian, the team that had won the previous two championship play-offs dominated the ball.

They failed to penetrate through no fault of Alcindo, yet another Brazilian. He was bright and alert, and working like a Trojan to try to draw a response from Kazu Miura.

the pin-up boy of Japanese football. This fellow, a millionaire, faded badly playing in Serie A with Genoa. Yesterday, whether because of prima donna tendencies, or a blustery night and a bouncy pitch prevented him getting his act together, he was a negligible partner for Alcindo.

So, the Brazilian tried to rescue the match with head and foot and with considerable heart. His misfortune was to receive such little support, and to find the player of the night in opposition, Masami Ihara, who has played 82 times for Japan, and who scored a memorable headed goal against England at Wembley in June, was an indomitable defender. When he could not get his head or his limbs to the ball, he ensured that others around him did so.

Yet, it is only half-time in the contest. There will be another 60,000 crowd in the same arena on December 6. Verdy, having come from behind to

win the second section of the season, may well do the same to Yokohama in this final contest of a campaign that has drawn another six million spectators to the J League.

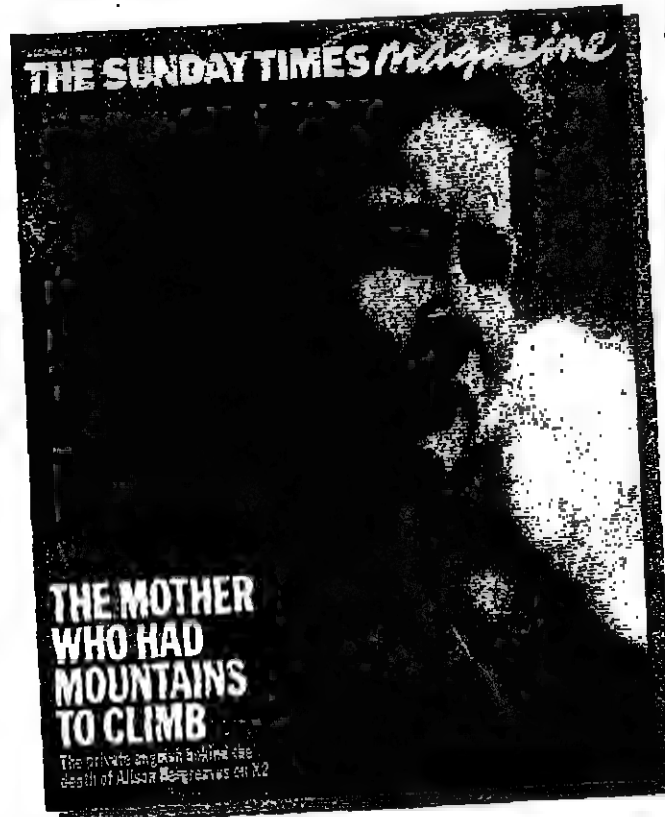
They seem happy to adopt football, happier by far than Ajax. The Dutch players were still in Tokyo almost a full 24 hours after they thought they had left it: their plane was refused entry over Russian airspace, an impasse developed between the plane and ground control, and it eventually turned back to Tokyo to refuel. The fury of Louis Van Gaal, the coach, who made it clear that he was not enthusiastic about this presumed world championship in the first place, will almost certainly not return should Ajax, as is likely, retain the European Cup next year. The Toyota Cup, for the champions of Europe and South America, may be over, but the J League is alive.

YOKOHAMA (3-6-3): Y. Kasuguchi — N. Matsuda, M. Ihara, M. Suzuki — A. Endo (sub. T. Suzuki, 55min), S. Noda, T. Yamada, G. Zappa, M. Osumi — S. Yasunaga (sub. F. Miura, 46), O. Bisconti.  
VERDY KAWASAKI (3-6-3): S. Kikuchi — J. Nakamura, P. Pereira, K. Higashi, T. Nakamura, I. Katsushika, S. Yamashita, T. Kikuchi — A. Alcindo, K. Miura.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

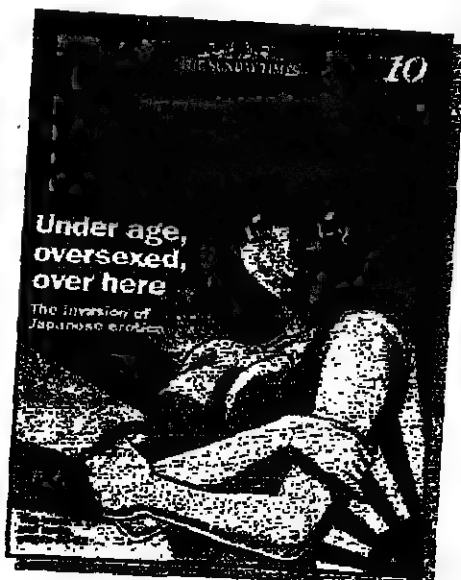
### A MOTHER'S PRIVATE ANGUISH

The single-minded determination of Alison Hargreaves took her to the top of Everest and the summit of K2, where it led to her death. Her achievements concealed mounting anguish over her marriage and her relationship with her children. Read the story of her brave and lonely struggle in The Magazine on Sunday



## THE INVASION OF JAPANESE EROTICA

Through television and the Internet Manga has acquired cult status in the west. Peter Millar reports on an art as old as Titian that is rapidly turning into one of Japan's most virulent cultural exports



THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN  
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

How would you set about this excellent slam? As South, you are in Six Diamonds and West leads the ace and another club.

♠ 5  
♥ A 10 9 7 5 4  
♦ Q 8 7 2  
♣ Q 4  
N  
W  
E  
S  
♠ A K J 10  
♥ K 6 3  
♦ A K 8 5 3  
♣ K

First, you count your tricks. You have two in spades, two in hearts, five in diamonds (you have to assume no loser there) and one in clubs. That is ten, so you need to develop two more.

If the trumps are two-two, you will make your two extra tricks by ruffing spades in dummy, but what if trumps are 3-1? Then, trying to ruff two spades might run into difficulties if the spades are 6-2.

Better would be to discard a heart on the queen of clubs, draw three rounds of trumps and play the king of hearts. If everyone follows, you can establish the hearts; but, if someone shows out, you have to cross to the dummy to take a spade finesse for your twelfth trick.

Do you start by playing off the ace of diamonds? If so, then you have missed a safety play. If East has all the diamonds, you can pick them up if you start with the queen of diamonds. Say you start like that and the worst happens — West shows out. You continue with the eight of diamonds, covered by East. Now, you can get only one spade ruff in dummy, as you need one of dummy's trumps to complete the process of picking up East's trumps.

Continue with ace and another spade, ruffing in dummy. You take the marked diamond finesse and draw trumps. Then, you play off the king of spades and the king of hearts and the fifth trump and, if the queen of spades has not appeared, you have to hope that the hearts come in. This is (nearly) the worst East-West distribution:

W E  
♠ Q 8 7 6 ♠ 9 4 3 2  
♥ Q J 2 ♥ 8  
♦ — ♦ J 10 5 4  
♣ A 9 8 7 6 5 ♣ J 10 3 2

Even if the East-West cards lie as badly as this, you can still make the contract — West will have made five discards on the diamonds and so has to unguard one of the majors.

□ In future, the refresher column will be on Fridays.  
□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

New grandmasters  
At the Fide (world chess federation) congress in Paris last week, three British players were awarded the title of international grandmaster: Keith Arkell, James Howell and John Emms.

Emms immediately went on to celebrate his award by defeating grandmaster Murray Chandler in the four nations' chess league for British teams.

White: Murray Chandler  
Black: John Emms  
Four nations' league, 1995

Two Knights' Defence  
1 e4 e5  
2 Nf3 Nc6  
3 Bc4 Nf6  
4 Ng5 d5  
5 exd5 Nxd5  
6 Bb5+ Bc7  
7 Bxd7+ Qxd7  
8 O-O O-O-O  
9 d4 exd4  
10 Qxd4 Nc6  
11 Qc4 Nxd6  
12 Nc3 Nc3  
13 Bxc3 Nc5  
14 Qe2 h6  
15 Nc4 f5  
16 Ng3 Bg6  
17 Bf4 Nf7  
18 Rf1 g5  
19 Bxd6 Nxd6  
20 Rd5 Rf8  
21 Qd3 f4  
22 Nf1 Qe6  
23 Rd1 Nf7  
24 c4 Rd5  
25 cxd5 Qd4  
26 Qc3 Nc6  
27 Qh3+ Kd8  
28 Qxh6 Qxc2

29 Qh5 a8  
30 Rd2 Qd1  
31 Rf2 Rf2  
32 Qxe2 Qe4  
33 Qd1 Qc4  
34 h3 Qxe2  
35 Qc4 Qc4  
36 Qe5 a5

White lost on time.

Diagram of final position  
8  
7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
a b c d e f g h

White lost on time, but would have, in any case, had difficulty in stopping Black's passed a-pawn.  
The lead in the four nations' league is held by the Witney team with four points, ahead of Midland Monarchs, Richmond, Wood Green and Slough, all of whom have three.

E-mail cup  
The International Correspondence Chess Federation will be organising an E-mail cup starting in January and open to all-comers. If you wish to enter, please contact Alan Rawlings on 01865 54392.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HOBDAY  
a. Midsummer's Day  
b. To help a horse breathe  
c. Washday in Lancashire

KANGA  
a. Maize  
b. A thonged sandal  
c. A Maori war dance

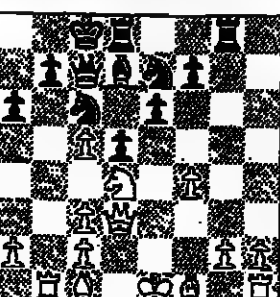
NANDI  
a. Holy bull  
b. Unleavened bread  
c. An extinct script  
HECKELPHONE  
a. A baritone oboe  
b. A loud-hailer  
c. The screeching magpie

Answers on page 46

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Mrdja — Luciani, San Giorgio, 1995. This position shows a typical tactical trick that Black must keep an eye out for when he has castled queenside. How did White make a decisive breakthrough into the black position?









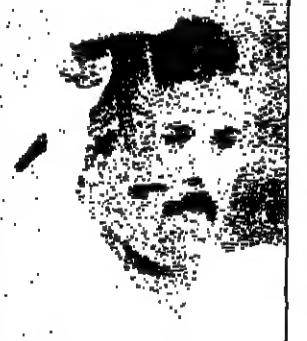
# Culinary carnival revives spirit of a weary wanderer

South African Airways, whose plane was 12 hours late, also managed to lose my luggage, hence my singularly inappropriate dress for a summer's day at the Wanderers cricket ground.

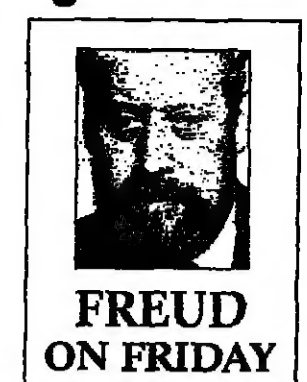
Around me were men luxuriating in sandals and shorts, T-shirts and floppy hats; people bearing great canisters of food and drink and cushions to soften the impact of hard seats on soft posterior. Others brought binoculars and record books and suntan cream... and because Thursday is the day that maids are "off" in Johannesburg, there were multitudes of children deposited in the appropriate family enclosure and endowed with sufficient ice cream and coke money to last them to close of play.

I came as I had travelled — though I checked in my sponge bag and, on the way to the ground, stopped at a newsagent and bought a notebook called *Lion Brand* "with handy spelling aid". It listed several hundred words from absence to zero. I have not seen zero misspell, but there you go. With-out the handy aid, I am not sure I would have managed hieroglyphics and had forgotten the existence of "quibble" — there had been a lot of that at Heathrow and in the air over the previous 24 hours.

The stadium is brilliant, the press box handsomely situated on the fifth floor giving us the view from behind the bowler's arm or over long stop — what became of long stop? There is free coffee and soft drink; quarters of sandwiches made with care. If not with love; and the usual suspects were in attendance, doing their things after a quick call home to ensure that their newspaper had survived the night.



Ijaz: third century



FREUD  
ON FRIDAY

ond Test, but as the first was (a) washed out, and (b) in a non-Test match location, there is a beginning-of-the-series feel in the air. England supporters walk about optimistically, shaking hands and buying hats and miniature cricket bats, and, when the bars open at 10.30am, they buy Castle lager. Castle sponsors the series. Castle's name is

## 'Russell galvanises the team into free flow by his example of balletic hyperactivity'

inscribed on the pitch and around the hoardings and, when not much goes on, you make anagrams of Castle lager.

Outside the ground, the local bookmaker shouts the odds from his pitch between a coke stall and a gents. Odds against England's first innings total exceeding 500 are a cramped 10-1. We are 2-1 to win, 14-10 to draw or lose.

Ian Botham slides up and has 50 sand (about £5) on Thorpe to be the first England batsman in the first innings, asks for odds against Malcolm taking five wickets. He is offered 10-1 and I shame the bookmaker into extending this to 12. Botham chances another 50 sand.

At 10.30am, Atherton leads out his team down the steps marked Puma with 100 childish hands from the family enclosure pushed through the railings to grasp whoever will return the friendly touch. Gough does best.

After six overs, an American asks me how things are going — "not being from here or understanding the game". I explain that England are doing well so far: two for nought with neither batsman having scored. One no-ball, one leg-bye. He looks at me and says: "So you're winning?"

I last saw Russell perform behind the stumps for England in Guyana, when things were not going for him. Since then, he is the established No 1 keeper, has successfully captained his county, and stood by to deputise for Atherton against West Indies. Now, this enigmatic man, who lives on Weetabix, bananas, baked beans and skinless breast of chicken, radiates confidence, galvanises the team into free flow by his example of balletic hyperactivity. Russell is like Chaucer's Reeve... of whom it is written:

No where so busy a man as he there was  
And yet he seemed busier than he was.

I take 12-1 Russell to be top scorer for England. I am not over hopeful of our success on this tour.

There are people who go to cricket grounds, make for their seats and remain in situ. Not I, and not just because I have no wish to impose the clothes I have been wearing for 36 hours upon the same neighbour. I do the tour, descend from the fifth floor via one of the most voracious lifts I have encountered, a lift with gates that will have your leg off if you are less than very nimble, and examine the ground: not much that is new



Spectators fire up the braai during lunch at the Wanderers stadium yesterday

except for a smoky patch of lawn the size of a bowls green from which good smells emerge.

It contains two dozen blazing braais (barbecues) and at one end is a shop called Meat People where you can buy chops and steaks and sausages, liver, chicken pieces, hamburgers... also buns and plates and plastic cutlery. A

decent three-figure, predominantly male crowd is cooking away impervious to cricket, filling the air with a rare, carnivorous aroma; and people are genuinely friendly. What a joy to encounter a mixed grill without tomatoes, mushrooms and parsley and how pleasurable it must be for the man fielding at deep long leg.

Tomorrow, I am invited to a West County fry-up, with kidneys. I tell my host that I have not seen kidneys at Meat People and he explains that his gang bring their own meat better and cheaper where they buy it. It is fortunate that spectators are no longer body-searched: it would be sort of embarrassing to be caught with a pocketful of offal.

## Ijaz compensates for careless team-mates

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON  
IN SYDNEY

PAKISTAN played their best cricket of the series on the first day of the third and final Test against Australia, after Wasim Akram won the toss, although these things are relative. To make 231 for an out-and-outing achievement and Wasim will want his batsmen to add another 150 runs today if the bowlers are to have anything to play with.

Ijaz Ahmed, who reached his third Test hundred — all of

them scored against Australia — in the penultimate over, will consider it his duty to see that they do. He battled with an application that his colleagues would do well to match, but, were it not for the illness that incapacitated Saeed Anwar last month, he would not be here at all.

Three of the batsmen dismissed made more than 30 and failed to pass 40, which underlines the carelessness that has cost Pakistan this series. Ramiz pulled a dreadful stroke to mid-on, Inzamam mistimed a cut and Salim,

having driven McGrath for three cover boundaries, was leg-before to the second new ball when the bowler found his proper line.

Once again, Warne was the pick of the bowlers. Earlier this week, he was a doubtful starter, but Australia were not going to let off their opponents so lightly. To concede 44 runs from 26 overs on a pitch as good as this was a fine effort even if the ball was turning. Whether the two Mustaqqs, who are both playing, get as much assistance is another matter. Warne, after all, is a phenomenon.

The other feature of the day was Australia's brilliant fielding. It is impossible to imagine better close catchers than Taylor at first slip, Mark Waugh at second and Steve Waugh in the gully. Boon, the shortest of short legs, is not the worst, either. They have superb catchers in key positions, men with strong arms in the deep and a resolute sergeant-major behind the stumps in Healy. They took a team.

Mark Waugh set the tone with a catch off the third ball of the day. Sohail's swish was irresponsible, but the manner in which Waugh pulled the ball down two-handed was magnificent — and to think, he has a bad back that prevents him from bowling.

Warne, brought into the attack at the members' end, took the second wicket when Ramiz, going back to a flipper that the bowler had pitched short deliberately, got himself into a frightful tangle and lobbed a simple catch to Slater. He must have felt embarrassed, being caught off

what was really a long hop. Such is Warne's control over these fevered minds that Ramiz submitted.

Ijaz batted at a steady tempo, saving himself for more expansive strokes when circumstance permitted. He lifted Steve Waugh over long-on for six and achieved the same result when he pulled a short ball from Warne. Otherwise, he was watchful, happy to prepare the ground for a big total, as his captain has been demanding.

Warne shared a second victim when Inzamam nicked

### SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: First Innings  
Aamir Sohail c M Waugh b McDermott 33  
Ijaz Ahmed not out 101  
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Healy b Warne 39  
Salim Malik bow b McGrath 36  
Saeed Anwar not out 8  
Extras (w 2, lb 5, nb 5) 10  
Total (4 wkts, 91 overs) 251  
"Wasim Akram, Rashid Latif, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed and Waqar Younis to bat.  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-64, 3-141, 4-210  
SCORING: McDermott 13-3-36; McGrath 19-1-72; (10-1, w 2); Refill 18-4-40 (10-4); Warne 27-18-42; M E Waugh 10-29-4; Brown 4-2-6-0  
AUSTRALIA: "M A Taylor, M J Slater, D C Boon, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, G S Blewett, I A Healy, S K Warne, P R Reifel, C J McDermott, G G McGrath  
Umpires: H D Bird and S G Handoll

a thin edge to Healy and walked of his own accord. McGrath, on his home ground, had not bowled well in the morning. Nevertheless, Taylor entrusted him with the new ball, ahead of McDermott, and he repaid the loyalty when Salim, playing across his pads, was leg-before. At the end of the day, therefore, honours were even.

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

#### HOBDA

(a) To operate on (a horse) in order to improve its breathing. Chiefly as the verbal substantive *hobdaying*. An acronym of F. T. Hobday, veterinary surgeon (1864-1939). "Hobdaying is an operation to help the breathing of horses who are wrong in the wind, but not by putting a tube in their throat."

#### KANGA

(a) Indian corn, maize, sweetcorn, or mealies. *Zea mays*. The Maori word. "Indian corn received the name of Kanga, the Maori form of the word corn. A unique method of utilising it as food was evolved. The unhusked ears were placed in fenced enclosures in still water where the grain became soft."

#### NANDI

(a) In Hindu mythology, the name of the bull of Shiva which is his vahana or vehicle, and symbolises fertility; also, a figure or statue of Nandi. In Sanskrit, "the happy one." "The majestic Nandi, the conventional vehicle of Lord Shiva in front of the sanctum in the forecourt."

#### HECKELPHONE

(a) A baritone oboe, an acronym of Wilhelm Hecker! (1850-1909), an instrument-maker of Biberich, after *saxophone*. "Some very fully scored modern symphonic and operatic works employ quadruple woodwind, such as the bass flute and heckelphone sometimes being added to the flute and oboe group respectively."

### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qxa6! destroys Black, as, if 1... bxc6; then 2. Bxb6! regains the queen with a huge advantage.

## New board proposals lack county support

By SIMON WILDE

PLANS to form an English Cricket Board capable of administering the domestic game at all levels were nearer the drawing board than fruition yesterday after a meeting of the chief executives of the first-class county clubs and other interested parties.

Just one month before the new body was originally scheduled to come into being, its starting date was formally put back from January to April 1, but the view of some of those at the meeting was that a more likely starting date is January 1, 1997.

Serious reservations were expressed during the five-hour meeting in London on Wednesday that some of the proposed changes — which constitute the most wide-ranging revision to the structure of the English game this century — were flawed. Inevitably, some parties must vote themselves out of office, but there is a suspicion that those at the centre, such as the officials of the Test and County Cricket Board, are showing a particular reluctance to relinquish the reins.

One sceptic said that the articles of association sent out to the county clubs propounded a structure that moved "significantly greater power to the centre". Another felt that those proposing the changes had "little knowledge of the way things worked in the real world".

The position of the Minor Counties Cricket Association received an especially sympathetic hearing. It demanded the right to a collective voice — so far denied — in the new board and led objections to the National Cricket Association, which has ostensibly supervised the game below first-class level since 1968, providing three of the 11 directors on the management board.

There was also concern that there would be insufficient long-term funds to finance the 38 county boards.

There was no play on the first day of the five-day international between Pakistan A and England A in Rawalpindi because of rain.

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### RADIO CHOICE

## Camelot and axe a lot

Print the Legend, Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.

When it comes to the cinema's depiction of the Middle Ages, you pay your money and you take your choice. And what a choice. Far from being overworked by it all, Christopher Frayling has narrowed down the variations to half a dozen or so. Essentially, there are the chivalric epics such as *Ivanhoe* and *The Knights of the Round Table* — Victorian gentlemen in armour, says Frayling — and there are the bloodaxe epics such as *Conan the Barbarian*, set in a Hollywood Valhalla in which warriors reprise their terrestrial days of fighting and boozing. By contrast, *Star Wars* relocated the Middle Ages into the future, in which a secular hero is initiated into a chivalric order of astronauts.

Turns of the Century, Radio 3, 4.20pm.

I am delighted to share with Gillian Reynolds her enthusiasm for the music-hall artistry of the Western Brothers. For polish, wit, sophistication and elegance, epitomised by their white tie and tails, and monodies, the cousins Kenneth and George were in a comely class of their own upper class. "We're frightfully BBC," they would drawl. "We're frightfully BBC." They poked fun at homosexuals when such a thing was not considered to be in bad taste ("We still think a pansy's a kind of flower"). They were the only entertainers on the halls who dared to incorporate into their songs such mangled Latinisms as "Pro bono public-house of Peter Davalle".

### RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Chris Warren 6.30  
Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00  
Lara Vicens 11.00 12.30-12.45  
Newspaper 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky  
Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, Inc. at  
5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 6.15 The Net 6.30  
The Net 7.00 The Essential Selection  
10.00 John Peel 1.00 Tim Westwood

### RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy  
7.30 Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce, Inc. at  
10.00 Pick of the Hits 11.30 Jimmy  
Young 2.00pm Desert Discs 3.00-3.20  
Stewart 5.05 Paul Harvey 7.00 Today's  
the Day 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night  
8.00 Listen to the Band with Frank  
Renton 10.00 Ian Anderson 12.05am  
Deby Farver 1.00 Charles Nove

### RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, Inc. at 5.45  
Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast  
Programme, Inc. at 6.55 and 7.55  
Racing Preview 8.25 The Magazine, Inc.  
and Euronews and 11.00 News, Grain  
Reaction 12.00 Middy with Mail, Inc. at  
12.34pm Moneycheck, Inc. at 1.15  
Entertainment News 2.05 Ruscio on  
Pine, Inc. at 3.45 Entertainment News  
4.00 Nationwide, Inc. at 5.45 Entertainment  
News 7.00 News Extra, Inc. at 7.20  
Sport and racing results 7.35 Parkinson  
on Sport 8.05 American Graffiti, presented  
by Jonathan Freedland 8.35 Soap  
Press 10.05 Entertainment Superhighway  
11.00 Night Rider, Inc. at 11.15  
Financial World Tonight 12.05am After  
Hours 2.05 Up All Night

### TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Wan 7.00 Simon Bates  
10.00 Jonathan Ross 12.00 Tommy  
Boyd 2.00pm Alan Parson 4.00 Scott  
Chisholm and Lorna Turner 7.00 Sean  
Baker 8.00 Mac 9.00 Mike Allen  
1.00-6.00pm Ian Collins

### WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Newsday:  
5.30 Europe 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe  
7.00 News 7.15 Midemarch 7.30  
Heritage 8.00 News 8.10 Faith 8.15  
Music Review 9.00 News in German  
9.15 Faith 9.45 Sports 10.00 Newsday:  
10.30 BBC English 10.45 Midemarch  
11.00 Newsday 11.30 Meridian 12.00  
News 12.05pm Business 12.15 Brian  
12.30 Science 1.00 Noonhour 2.00  
News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Alternative 3.00  
News in German 3.15 Music Review  
4.00 News 4.15 World Today 4.30 News  
in German 5.00 Europe 5.30 Newsday  
5.45 Sports 6.00 Newsday 6.30 News  
in German 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25  
Faith 7.30 Multitrack 8.00 Newsday  
8.00 News 8.05 Business 9.15 Britain  
9.30 People and Politics 10.00  
Newsday 10.30 World Today 10.45  
Sports 11.00 News 11.10 Spotlight  
11.15 Heritage 11.45 Farming Mid-  
night Newsday 12.30 From the Week-  
lies 12.45 Britain 1.00 News 1.10 Press  
Review 1.15 Seven Days 1.30 Jazz 1.45  
Books 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Politics 3.00  
News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Vintage Charts  
4.00 Newsday 4.30 Jazz 4.45 Seven  
Days

### CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Basky  
8.00 Harry Kelly 12.00 Susanah  
Simons 2.00pm Telemann (Recorder  
Concerto No 1 in G) 3.00 Jamie Cuth  
6.00 News 6.30 Bach (Piano Sonata in E)  
7.00 Classic Verdict 8.00 Offenbach  
(Overture La belle Hélène), Mendels-  
sohn (Concerto for violin and piano in D  
minor), Tchaikovsky (Capriccio Italien),  
Dvořák (Symphony No 9 in F) 10.00  
Michael Mappin 1.00am Robert North

### VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 8.00 Richard  
Shinwell 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm  
Nicky Home 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00  
Mark Forest 2.00am Howard Pearce

### RADIO 3

6.00am On Air: Smetana (Tabor,  
Blanik, Ma Vlast); Bach  
(Fantasia and Fugue in C  
minor); Copland (Suite for  
Cello); The Koffi 7.05 Pirelli  
Portfolio. A selection of  
songs: 7.17 Telemann  
(Sonata prima in A);  
Vila-Lobos (Valsa de Do);  
Rimsky-Korsakov (Suite: The  
Snow Maiden); Janáček  
transcript (Suite: The  
Cunning Little Vixen); Mozart  
(Symphony No 20 in A)  
8.00 Morning Collection with  
Paul Gambaccini  
Myelbecke (Sonata in B flat);  
Dvořák (Symphony No 9 in E  
minor, From the New World)  
10.00 Musical Encounters. Artists  
of the Week: Gil Shaham,  
violin (Concerto in E  
minor, Winter, Four Seasons);  
10.10 Haydn (Concerto in F);  
Purcell (From those serene  
and rapturous joys); Pleyel  
(Wind Partita); Sibelius (Violin  
Concerto)  
12.00 Composer of the Week:  
Vivaldi The Seasons. Music  
Vivaldi wrote for feast days  
and different seasons of the  
liturgical year  
1.00pm Bristol Lunchtime  
Concert. Barok Plus  
Anthony Marwood, violin;  
Susan Thomas, piano Brahms,  
arr. Joachim (Two Hungarian  
Dances); Soporin (Violin  
Sonata); Barok (Violin Sonata  
No 1)  
2.00 Schools: Let's Make a Story  
2.15 Music Box 2.30 Dance  
Workshop 2.50 Poetry Corner  
3.00 Fairies: Miming the  
Archives. The Elmgres  
Bernard Kettle introduces the  
recordings of Berlioz  
Goldschmidt and Franz  
Reizenstein, both of whom  
were born in Germany  
4.20 Fairies: Tales of the  
Century. See Chorus  
4.30 Kristian Arles, Shuhri  
Sadokhar sings the Raga  
Bibhas  
5.00 The Music Machine. Tommy  
Pearson concludes his visit to  
the Web  
5.15 In Tune. Debussy (Feux  
d'Artifice); Field (Nocturne No  
5 in B flat); Bartók  
(Dances)  
7.30 Bach and Stravinsky, from  
St Giles's Church,  
Cripplegate, Bach  
Schubert (Concerto No 3  
in G; Singel dam Herrn);  
Stravinsky (Concerto for  
Chamber Orchestra,  
Dumbarton Oaks); 8.15  
Stravinsky and Elgar  
Michael Oliver asks which are  
Stravinsky's religious works;  
8.35 Bach, arr. Stravinsky  
(Concerto for violin and piano in D  
minor); 9.00 Stravinsky  
Bach (Mass in G)  
10.25 Fairies: Readings from  
Carfax. The final selection  
from the musical criticism of  
Sir Neville Cardus presented  
by Fritz Spieg  
10.40 Hear and Now: In Memory  
of Luigi Nono. The third  
tribute to the composer  
includes three early works  
and the UK premiere of a  
work for six vocal and  
instrumental soloists and live  
electronics  
12.00-1.00am Fairies: Isle:  
Britannia at the Opera.  
Arthur Lillie's The Olympians,  
with a libretto by  
J. B. Priestley, Scottish Opera  
Chorus; BBC Scottish  
Symphony Orchestra under  
Marilyn Braddins (v)

### RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00  
News Briefing incl Weather  
6.10 Farming Today 6.25  
Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today  
incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30  
News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45  
Thought for the Day 8.40  
Yesterday in Parliament 8.55  
Weather  
9.00-10.00 Test Match Special  
(LW only). South Africa v  
England. The second day's  
play of the second Test  
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island  
Discs (FM only), featuring the  
record producer Pete  
Waterman as the castaway (r)  
9.45 Feedback (FM only), with  
Chris Dunkley  
10.00-10.30 News. Print the  
Legend (FM only). See  
Choice (3/7)  
10.00 An Act of Worship (LW only)  
10.15 This Soap? (LW only).  
The death of Charles I  
10.30 Woman's Hour (FM only  
from 11.00). Introduced from  
Edinburgh by Ruth Wainart.  
Short Story: The  
Shaperefractors by Ellis N  
Dhuibh  
11.00-4.00pm Test Match Special  
(LW only). Coverage of South  
Africa v England  
NB. The following are FM only  
until 4.00pm  
11.30 The Natural History  
Programme  
12.00 News: You and Yours, with  
Chris Choi  
12.25pm The Food Programme.  
Christmas traditions in Britain  
12.55 Weather  
1.00 The World at One  
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55  
Shipping Forecast  
2.00 News: The Classic Serial:  
The Barchester Chronicles  
The Warden (22) (r)  
3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift  
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope  
Tim Marlowe 4.25pm Monday  
Dance Company re-enact a  
baseball game on stage  
4.45 Short Story: Will He Last  
the Weekend? A new story  
for World Aids Day, written by  
Turan Ali  
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast  
6.00-6.55 Weather  
6.00 50p O'Clock News  
6.30 Going Places. Includes a  
tour of Glasgow's neopopolis  
with historian Gavin Stamp  
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers  
7.20 Pick of the Week  
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan  
Dunbar chairs a topical  
discussion in Gilton, West  
Midlands. With Will Hutton,  
assistant editor of the  
Guardian; Donald Dewar,  
MP, Labour's Chief Whip;  
Anne Applebaum, deputy  
editor of the Spectator; and  
Michael Jack, MP  
8.50 Law in Action. Presented by  
Marco Berio  
9.15 Letter from America by  
Alistair Cooke  
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature  
Salome's Dance (r) 9.59  
Weather  
10.00 The World Tonight  
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Inside Mr  
Enderby, by Anthony  
Burgess, read by the late Sir  
Robert Stephens (7/12)  
11.00 Week Ending  
11.25 Tea Junction  
11.45 Today in Parliament  
12.00 News incl 12.27am Weather  
12.30 The Late Book: Hotel for  
the Holidays. William Hope  
reads the first part of a new  
story by Jay McInerney  
12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As  
World Service (LW only)

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.9-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 98.0,  
90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.5. LW 58.0.  
720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648. LW  
12.45-12.55am. CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM  
105.6. MW 1197.0-1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1063, 1069. Television  
and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maszy,  
Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson



# Marie, the contrary queen of contraception

The big lesson to be learnt from last night's *Secret Lives* (Channel 4) was not the obvious one about vanity or hubris or egotism. Marie Stopes made one very big mistake in her life: she predeceased her disgruntled secretary, Judith Johns. This elderly woman is possessed of such abhorrent bluntness and retrospective contempt that she threatened to overtop the programme on several occasions, and had to be eked out sparingly. "She wouldn't do anything unless there was publicity in it," Johns told us. "Actually, her ideas were the same as Hitler's." And on Stopes's middle-aged sex drive: "She thought she was very beautiful! She did!" Johns coughed in disbelief, and then added, with perfect timing: "Yes, she always had that delusion."

Is it strictly true, however, that Marie Stopes gave foreplay to the world? If so, it ought to count for

something, along with the Dutch caps, sex historians, biographers, and genuine readers testified to the importance of Stopes's book *Married Love*, against background archive footage of women in black coats each grimly holding a big white object like a bolster, while toils thronged at their feet. One of the sex historians said that, until the publication of *Married Love*, a man would come home from work, wipe the table, and expect the wife to lie back and think of England. Which is a bit odd, actually, because usually when a man banged the table, his wife cantered in nervously with egg and chips. No wonder the sex life of the working classes was so miserable, with misunderstandings as profound as this one at its core.

The big "secret" about Stopes was that she gave instructions to the world about marital coitus while still a virgin. She was also a domestic tyrant, egomaniac, sexu-

al gourmand, monstrously possessive mother and devotee of selective breeding. To sum up, then, nobody had a good word, except perhaps "Thanks for the naughty books!" In cruelly funny photographs, Stopes posed in bulging swimming costumes with one toe pointed, and cellulite like a cold rice pudding. Lurking in the background to many photographs was her husband Humphrey, who formally released her from obligations to fidelity in a letter she helpfully dictated to him. What a rotten life. When first married, they called each other "Tiger" and "Wood Nymph" but alas, the epithets seem to have been assigned the wrong way round.

Last night's *EastEnders* (BBC1) found Arthur Fowler arrested for the embezzlement of the Flowering Wilder appeal. Devotees of the series had been expecting this development,

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

to say the least. In fact, if it didn't happen soon, we were likely to start picketing Elstree. But while Arthur's inevitable tragedy unfolded in a cold police interview room, writer Tony Jordan gave the episode an interesting twist by setting the whole thing against a gruesome party at Pat's, thrown to celebrate the full arrival of boyfriend Roy into the Square. Dramatically, this happy knees-

up with Bee Gees records was intended to offset Arthur's isolation ("I am telling you the truth!"; but it served a double purpose. If Arthur is sent down for a crime he did not commit, at least he will avoid the blonde records, the pineapple-on-a-stick, and Pat pouring gin in glasses by turning the bottle upside down. Given the choice last night between Pat's living room and the torture chambers of the Spanish Inquisition, most people would have plumped for the pointy hats, no problem.

Why Arthur does not deduce that his chum Willy is behind this, I don't know. But incriminating evidence has been found in his shed, and things look black. Like most soaps, *EastEnders* usually ends with a big face looking thoughtful, the success of this image dependent on the quality of the actor. One remembers with delight Steve's hilariously inadequate look of "Flummoxed" on

discovering Binnie in bed with Della. It is impressed on my mind's eye, and cheers me up in dull moments on trains. Anyway, Bill Treacher justified the tradition magnificently last night. His face collapsed, his mouth fell open, his eyes bagged. In fact, as he saw his life in ruins, I have to say I felt quite sorry for him.

Up to now I have avoided *Sophie's Meat Course* (Channel 4), so I chose *Offal Week* as my launch point, as a mark of courage. Ever since Jonathan Meades described the sexual act as "rubbing off", my head has never been quite the same. Anyway, a huge tongue lolled on a board, the size of a loaf; little fat kidneys squeaked in a dish; testicles were shown, too, but only at a tasteful distance. Graham Portwine, who advises Sophie Grigson about meat, was rather keen on the tongue but not so keen

on the gonads. "Men don't want to eat them for some reason," said Grigson. Iarkly. (Marie Stopes probably had them daily for breakfast.)

Some of this stuff was hard to watch, on top of which it didn't look in the least bit appetising, and there was no magic in the art. But then what do I know about cooking? Instructed by a recipe requiring "now trim the chicken livers" I screamed and flapped my hands, and gave the whole lot to the cat. Unable to comment on the cooking, therefore, I will gladly say I was impressed by Sophie's hair mousse, which is quite as formidable as the gel of Gary Rhodes.

The tongue was really obscene, however, and the idea of giving it to unsuspecting guests is a little optimistic. "It will serve up to ten people with no waste!" said Sophie. How true. Especially when eight of them run from the room as though their bottoms are on fire.

## BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (25361)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (47223555)
- 8.10am *Kilroy* (s) (8491915)
- 10.00am *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (151081) 10.30am *Can't Cook, Won't Cook*. Presented by Ainsley Harriott (s) (8034082)
- 10.30am *Good Morning with Anne and Nick*. With Anita Roddick (s) (86561)
- 12.00pm *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (151081) 12.05pm *Pebble Mill*. Nancy Sinatra and the BBC Big Band pay tribute to Frank's 80th birthday (s) (5192264) 12.50pm *Regional News* and weather (64038710)
- 1.00pm *One O'Clock News* (Ceefax) and weather (64449) 1.30pm *Neighbours* (Ceefax) (s) (9558158) 1.50pm *Columbo: Requiem for a Falling Star* (s) (Ceefax) (s) (8442263) 3.05pm *Innocent* (s) (8175888)
- 3.30pm *Orville and Cuddles* (s) (6304401) 3.35pm *Robinson Crusoe* (Ceefax) (s) (1818333) 4.00pm *The Itchy Bit* (s) (1268130) 4.20pm *Julia Jelvy and Harriet Hyde* (Ceefax) (s) (8222263) 4.35pm *Record Breakers* (Ceefax) (s) (1577823)
- 5.00pm *Newsround* (Ceefax) (3901130)
- 5.10pm *Blue Peter* (Ceefax) (s) (8378158)
- 5.35pm *Neighbours* (s) (Ceefax) (s) (438975)
- 6.00pm *One O'Clock News* (Ceefax) and weather (8)
- 6.30pm *Regional news* (Ceefax) (20)
- 7.00pm *The World's Strongest Man*. The second of five qualifying heats. (Ceefax) (s) (2913)
- 7.30pm *Tomorrow's World*. Howard Staibford reports on Megacity, an extravagant proposal for a new city in land-hungry Japan. Philippa Forrester investigates a pain-free alternative to the dentist's drill, invented by a Hampshire vicar (Ceefax) (s) (84)
- 8.00pm *Wildlife on One*. A Grange with Danger. A documentary about the Thomson's gazelle, one of Africa's great success stories. They must fend off lions, cheetahs and jackals to survive (s) (Ceefax) (s) (8333)
- 8.30pm *A Question of Sport*. Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham captain teams answering questions put by David Coleman (Ceefax) (s) (7488)
- 9.00pm *One O'Clock News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8178)



Nigel La Valliant and Stan Webber (8.30pm)

- 9.30pm *Dangerfield*. (Ceefax) (s) (950807)
- 10.20pm *Film: Bronco Billy* (1980). A comedy western directed by and starring Clint Eastwood (Ceefax) (s) (643536) **WALLES: 10.20pm The Way It Is** (317265) 10.50pm *Film: Bronco Billy* (1980) 12.45pm *Snooker* (563173) 1.45-2.55pm *Film: It Conquered the World* (3511531)
- 12.15pm *Shoother*. Highlights of the first semi-final in the UK Championships (548802)
- 1.15pm *Film: It Conquered the World* (1956) with Peter Graves, Lee Van Cleef and Beverly Garland. A vegetable monster from Venus threatens to cause havoc on Earth. Directed by Roger Corman (5279227)
- 2.25pm *Weather* (8380802)

## BBC2

- 6.00am *Technology Season*
- 7.00am *Breakfast News* (Signed) (8464468)
- 7.15pm *Lassie* (2168284) 7.40pm *Swat Kats* (s) (7088826) 8.05pm *Smart* (s) (Ceefax) (s) (249401) 8.35pm *The Record* (898807)
- 9.00pm *Daytime on Two*. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25pm *Playdays* (9454523)
- 2.00pm *Fiddley Fiddle Bird* (s) (86849159)
- 2.10pm *Sport on Friday*. The first semi-final of the Royal Liver Assurance UK championship from the Guild Hall, Preston (s). Includes *News* and weather at 3.00pm (609284) 3.55pm *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (948791)
- 4.00pm *Today's the Day*. Recent history quiz (s) (33)
- 4.30pm *Snooker*. From Preston (28262)
- 6.00pm *The Munsters* (b/w). Vintage ghoulish humour from America. (Ceefax) (976791)
- 6.25pm *The New Avengers* starring Patrick Macnee, Joanna Lumley and Garth Hunt (s). (Ceefax) (342536)
- 7.15pm *Football, Fussball, Voetbal*. The series tracing the history of 40 years of European football this week focuses on France and Belgium (323333)
- 8.00pm *Top Gear Motorsport*. Tony Mason reports on Alister McRae's bid to emulate his father and elder world champion brother in winning the British Rally Championship. (Ceefax) (s) (8975)
- 8.30pm *Secret Nature: Beyond Tide's Reach*. Natural history series on the flora and fauna of the English Channel (s). (Ceefax) (s) (8710)
- 9.00pm *Not the Nine O'Clock News*. Satirical series from the 1980s, starring Rowan Atkinson, Griff Rhys Jones, Mel Smith and Pamela Stephenson (s). (Ceefax) (9420)
- 9.30pm *Coogan's Run: Handyman for All Seasons*. (Ceefax) (s) (51738)
- 10.00pm *Have I Got News for You*. Comedy quiz chaired by Angus Deayton, Ian Haplo and Paul Merton are joined by Ken Livingstone, MP, and comedian Alan Davies (s) (23468)
- 10.30pm *Newsnight* with Peter Snow. (Ceefax) (514442)
- 11.15pm *Don't Give Up Your Day Job*. A show of talent, or lack of it. Celebrities sing off the popular axis. Introduced by Paul Brophy (s) (122791) **WALLES: 11.15pm Welsh Lobby (122791) 11.45pm *Don't Give Up Your Day Job* (121062) 12.15pm *Weather* (109840) 12.20-2.55pm *Film: Ran* (58879005)**
- 11.45pm *Weather* (832807)



Tatsuya Nakadai and Peter in *Ran* (11.50pm)

- 11.50pm *Film: Ran* (1985). Akira Kurosawa's drama, based on Shakespeare's *King Lear* (88805265) Ends 2.30am

## VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**  
As London except: 12.55pm *Coronation Street* (2722449) 1.25pm *Home and Away* (602428) 1.50pm *A Country Practice* (807791) 2.25-3.30pm *Murder, She Wrote* (501433) 3.10-4.40pm *Shortland Street* (802438) 5.00-5.30pm *News* (801030) 5.30-6.00pm *6.30pm The 10.30pm Six* (801030) 6.30-7.00pm *Coronation Street* (2722449) 7.00-7.30pm *News* (801030) 7.30-8.00pm *6.30pm The 10.30pm Six* (801030) 8.00-8.30pm *Coronation Street* (2722449) 8.30-9.00pm *News* (801030) 9.00-9.30pm *6.30pm The 10.30pm Six* (801030) 9.30-10.00pm *Coronation Street* (2722449) 10.00-10.30pm *News* (801030) 10.30-11.00pm *6.30pm The 10.30pm Six* (801030) 11.00-11.30pm *Coronation Street* (2722449) 11.30-12.00pm *News* (801030) 12.00-12.30pm *6.30pm The 10.30pm Six* (801030) 12.30-1.00pm *Coronation Street* (2722449) 1.00-1.30pm *News* (801030) 1.30-2.00pm *6.30pm The 10.30pm Six* (801030) 2.00-2.30pm *Coronation Street* (2722449) 2.30-3.00pm *News* (801030) 3.00-3.30pm *6.30pm The 10.30pm Six* (801030) 3.30-4.00pm 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*Coronation Street* (2722449) 10.00-10.30pm *News*



Late flurry of South Africa wickets undermines Kirsten's solid century

## Cork puts England back on track

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN JOHANNESBURG

JOHANNESBURG (first day of five: England won the toss): South Africa have scored 278 for seven wickets against England

IT MAY have been the grisly weather forecast, the patchy grass on the pitch or a lapse into fond memories of Devon Malcolm's salad days, but whatever it was that persuaded England to bowl first in the second Test looked a sad delusion for much of yesterday. The Wanderers pitch played primly, the skies stayed mockingly blue and South Africa, despite a lame start, were striding towards a commanding total until losing five wickets as the game was dramatically transformed in the evening session.

The late stumble featured two wickets in four balls for Malcolm, whose purposeful burst with the second new ball was his best of the tour and revealed a few, half-forgotten

Diary ..... 20  
Clement Freud ..... 46  
Pakistan in control ..... 46  
Board setback ..... 46

skeletons in the South African cupboard. If their batsmen continue to play him with their eyes averted, Malcolm may yet reassert the mental grip over them that he held after his exploits at the Oval last year.

Wickets gained late in the day hardly constituted a triumph for England's shock tactics, which looked ruinous with the opposition on 211 for two, but spoke highly for their spirit and perseverance. Darren Gough, wayward in his first spell, returned with spark, skill and ill-fortune, represented by a drop from Jack Russell, the wicket-keeper, that would have curtailed the important three-wicket partnership when it was barely past its halfway mark.

But for Dominic Cork, whose four deserved wickets in a punishing day's work endorsed his standing as much the best bowler in the party, the match might already be beyond England. As it is, they need to be batting, and batting well, by lunchtime today to nourish prospects of victory, for the traditions of



Cork celebrates his dismissal of Cronje, the South Africa captain, caught by Russell on the first day of the second Test in Johannesburg. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths

this ground are that the bounce will be less trustworthy as the game proceeds.

Whether or not the author of the day's policy is ever revealed to have been Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, Michael Atherton must surely have applied it with trepidation. In his 26th Test as captain, this was only the second time he had put in the opposition; the first, in Melbourne last Christmas, brought one of his most humiliating defeats.

Now, as then, Atherton seemed half-hearted in his enforcement, falling back on defensive fields soon after lunch as if in admission of a misguided plot. He had said on Wednesday that he would be inclined to bat first, in the knowledge that the past three Tests on this ground have been won this way. He also said that he would be reluctant to omit his spin bowler. It was either a volte face or the hand of Illingworth was firmly on the England tiller. He may yet be vindicated.

In an afternoon that brought South Africa 110 runs without loss, England's gamble was made to look reckless by a player who is the very antithesis of the word. Gary Kirsten is not the type of left-hander who will sell tickets, but he sells his wicket dearly and he batted for 355 minutes, offering not a chance nor scarcely a hint of fallibility.

It has taken Kirsten until now, his 29th innings, to make his maiden Test hundred, and there are those who will say that he is as thin on charisma as he is on top. However, the fact that he already averaged 37 was a measure of his consistency. By contrast,

Mark Ramprakash, who also began this game without a century, has played 31 Test innings at an average of 17. His chance will come today, and there is nothing in the conditions to daunt him.

Perhaps there was never likely to be, for all the suspicious staring and prodding of the turf and the baleful contemplation of the skies. It had rained as if the world was about to end on Wednesday evening, and more was pre-

dicted for yesterday. Illingworth surely knew better than to be taken in by the weather forecasters, yet England duplicated South Africa's failed tactics of a fortnight ago.

Andrew Hudson gave them the start that they required. He does not enjoy playing against England and was dropped after totalling 30 runs in four Test innings last year. He failed to add to that tally before being caught at gully, off bat and pad, in Cork's

fourth over. Kirsten by then had contrived to look uncomfortable against Malcolm's bouncer, so all was going well. The impression did not last.

Hansie Cronje began to bat with great freedom and Kirsten caught the mood. There was nothing in the pitch to deter them and it took a good outswinger from Cork, fatefully followed by Cronje, to break the stand at 74.

Daryl Cullinan then took 22 balls to score, before playing with contrasting abandon, several times pulling Malcolm through mid-wicket with his weight on the front foot. The ball had stopped swinging, Cork needed a rest and Atherton, with his newly cropped hair, wore the look of a man behind bars.

As news of South Africa's progress doubled the crowd to more than 13,000 after lunch, Gough, distraught as his best spell went unremembered, picked up a rubbish bag blown onto the ground and put it on his head. It seemed to sum up England's disarray until, half-an-hour after tea, Cullinan pushed forward to a gentle hoister from Hick and was caught behind.

Now, inexplicably, the game

## JOHANNESBURG SCOREBOARD

England won toss  
SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings  
A C Hudson c Stewart b Cork ..... 0  
(28min, 27 balls)  
G Kirsten c Russell b Malcolm ..... 110  
(253min, 241 balls, 18 fours)  
\*W J Cronje c Russell b Cork ..... 36  
(76min, 61 balls, 6 fours)  
D J Cullinan c Russell b Hick ..... 69  
(161min, 128 balls, 10 fours)  
J N Rhodes c Russell b Cork ..... 6  
(22min, 14 balls)  
S M McMillan b Cork ..... 35  
(85min, 70 balls, 7 fours)  
\*D J Richardson c Russell b Malcolm ..... 0  
(3min, 3 balls)  
S M Pollock not out ..... 3  
(80min, 11 balls)  
Extras (b 1, w 13, w 2, nb 5) ..... 21  
Total (7 wickets, 88.5 overs, 378min) 278  
C E Elstesen, M W Pringle and A A Donald to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3 (Kirsten 1), 2-74 (Kirsten 36), 3-211 (Kirsten 36), 4-221 (Kirsten 101), 5-280 (McMillan 26), 6-280 (McMillan 26), 7-275 (Pollock 3)

BOWLING: Cork 27.5-5-74-4 (pb 3, 9-14-1, 7-1-25-1, 3-1-5-0, 4-1-1-1, 4-5-0-17-1), Malcolm 16-5-42-2 (6-3-16-0, 5-0-22-0, 5-2-4-2), Fraser 16-5-48-0 (pb 2, 5-2-16-0, 5-2-9-0, 5-1-21-0, 5-1-15-2-64-0 (pb 1, w 2, 3-0-21-0, 7-2-38-0, 5-0-17-0), Hick 15-1-38-1 (5-0-14-0, 3-0-8-0, 5-0-14-1, 2-1-4-0)

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: Lunch: 75-2 (27 overs, 120min) Kirsten 34, Cullinan 0, Tot: 185-2 (58 overs, 242min) Kirsten 75, Cullinan 63. Second new ball: 251-4 (60 overs) Kirsten 108, McMillan 19

ENGLAND: \*M A Atherton, A J Stewart, M R Ramprakash, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, R A Smith, J R C Russell, D G Cork, D Gough, A R C Fraser, D E Malcom

Umpires: D B Haer (Australia) and K E Lousberg (Replay umpire: R E Koorzen, Match referee: C H Lloyd (West Indies).

RESULT: First Test (Pretoria): drawn

TESTS TO COME: Third (Durban): Dec 14 to 18. Fourth (Port Elizabeth): Dec 26 to 30. Fifth (Cape Town): Jan 2 to 6

□ Compiled by Bill Frindall

## Graf ready to extend her reign

Years that Steffi Graf's tennis career may be truncated have been dispelled by her coach, Heinz Gunthardt, whose decision to change his own secondary job had helped to strengthen those suspicions, has now disclosed that the world's No 1 woman player is "more committed than ever".

Gunthardt is to join Eurosport, the satellite television channel, as a commentator next year, a move that suggested that his coaching duties might be curtailed, but he expects to be as busy with Graf as he was this year. Although her troublesome back so restricted her schedule that, midway through the year, she played only in grand slam events, he has seen significant recent development.

"The back problem is by no means fine, but it's manageable and I can't see her retiring soon," Gunthardt said. "The condition she has been in the past few months, there is no reason why she can't go on for some time. She's more committed than ever, though why I don't even think she knows herself."

He believes that the widely publicised distraction of her father's imprisonment for alleged tax evasion has spurred his charge. "Maybe, when things go wrong in one area, you try to compensate for that," he said. "Perhaps she needed a new motivation as well."

The return of Monica Seles was "not a major factor. Steffi had so many problems that she didn't have the time to focus on anything but herself."

Stuart Jones talks to the world

No 1's coach, who believes talk of her retirement is premature

Gunthardt believes that it is Graf's ability to channel her concentration that has been her saviour. "I've never met anyone like her in that respect," he said. "That is why she's a champion. She can block things out so they don't exist. On court, nothing else matters. Her will-power is amazing."

Graf, with virtually no practice on clay,



Graf: "more committed than ever"

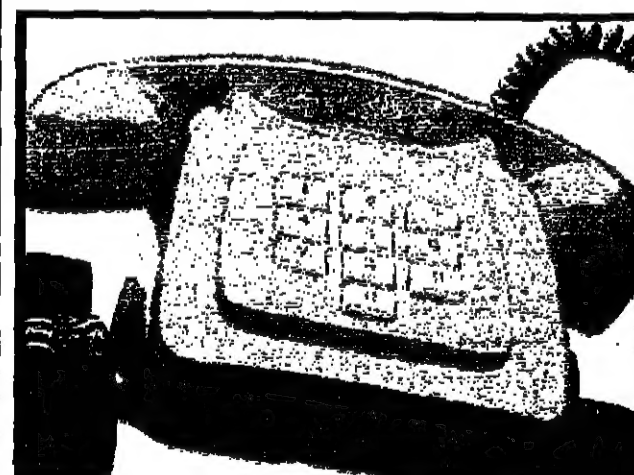
won the French Open title and, with scarcely any practice on grass, became the Wimbledon champion. Shortly afterwards, her father's case was exposed and she has since been besieged by the German media in particular.

Nevertheless, she went on to take the US Open title and, a fortnight ago, the WTA Tour championship in New York. "There's been no lack of desire since Wimbledon," Gunthardt said, "and that has surprised even me. Where she draws the energy from beats me."

She has had to learn to be independent, too. When he asked Graf whether she wanted to change the weight and balance of her rackets, Gunthardt was astonished by the reply. "It was outrageous," he said. "She had no idea. She'd been told that they were all identical. She'd never had to think for herself."

Although Graf must still choose her schedule with care to protect her back, her coach's appraisal will soothe the concerns of women's tennis. For two years, and without a sponsor, the game lost stature and money partly because of the absence of a rivalry between her and Seles.

They have met only once, in the final of the US Open, during a year that has been dominated by Graf. At the start of it, the German was physically incapable of competing and, in spite of the psychological traumas that she has since suffered, she has ended it with only two defeats in her 49 matches.



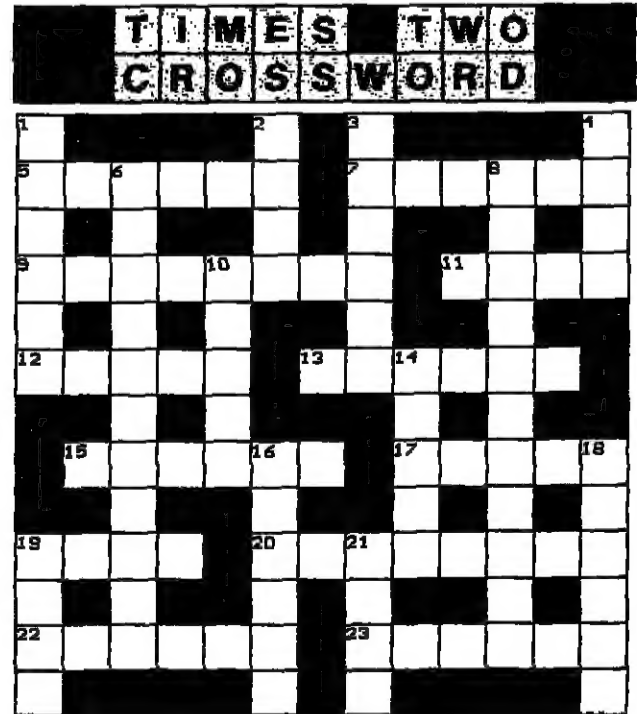
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  - Raider (8)
  - Group of egg cattle (4)
  - Positioned (5)
  - Regard approvingly (6)
  - Eerie, arousing unease (6)
  - Two-armed lifting tool (5)
  - Bird; sailor (4)
  - Jointly (8)
  - Mildly improper (6)
  - Excuse; logic (6)
- DOWN
- Greek messenger of gods (6)
  - US admiral/explorer; Eng. composer (4)
  - (Pipes) clogged with scale (6)
  - Lattice (4)
  - To begin with (3,5)
  - WW1 front-line dugouts (3,5)
  - More than warranted (5)
  - A joint; a headdress (5)
  - Raindrop sound; comedian's chat (6)
  - Jump; source (6)
  - Promise; unit of language (4)
  - Surround; put on belt (4)

The solution to 640 will be published Wednesday, December 6

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